

A Fawcett Publication

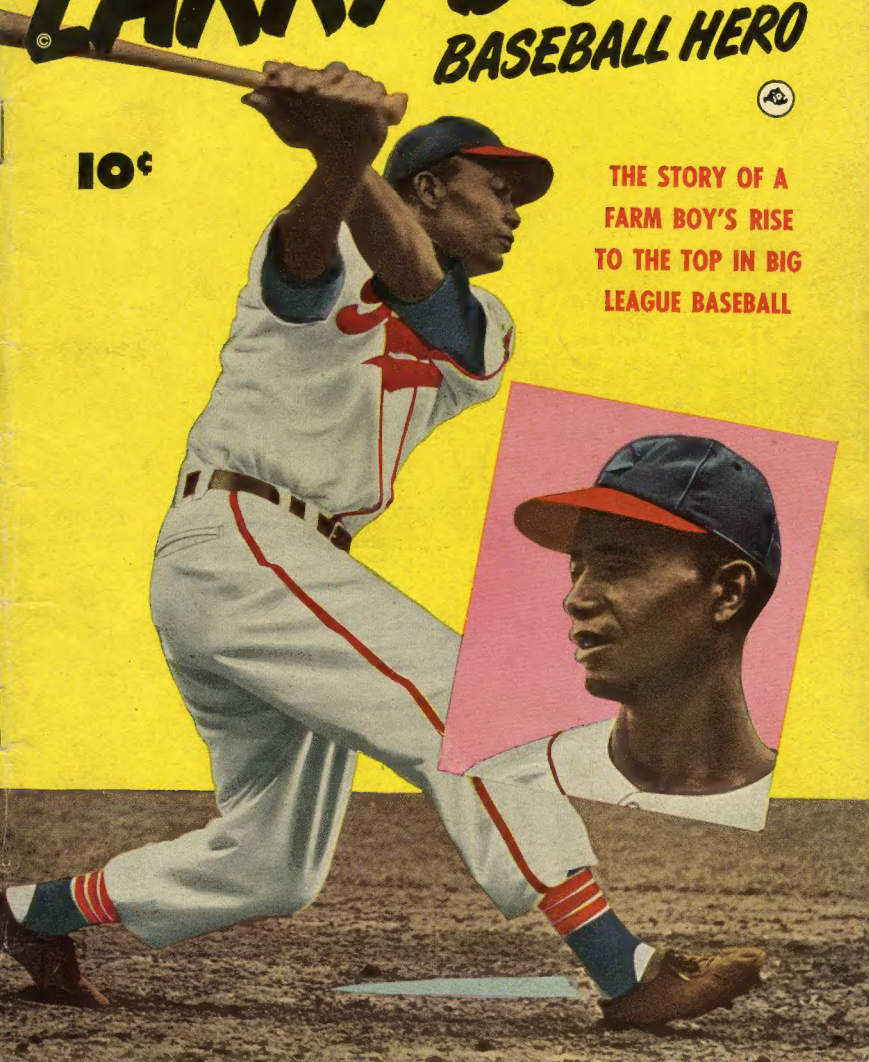
LARRY DOBY

BASEBALL HERO



10¢

THE STORY OF A
FARM BOY'S RISE
TO THE TOP IN BIG
LEAGUE BASEBALL





A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM LARRY DOBY

Dear Friends:

Did you ever strike out with men on bases and then take that long walk back to the bench with everyone's eyes on you, sure that everyone was saying: "He'll never make the grade."

Well, I did it not once but twice in the opening game of the 1948 season. Then one of my team mates, Joe Gordon, said: "I have my bad days too, Larry. There's always a tomorrow..."

There was a tomorrow for me, thanks to Joe, and to Lou Boudreau, Hank Greenberg and those wonderful Cleveland Indians who won the world's championship that year.

Never give up on yourself. Never underestimate the value of your friends' advice and guidance and when a pal of yours needs a friend, be kind to him. It pays off in baseball--and everywhere else.

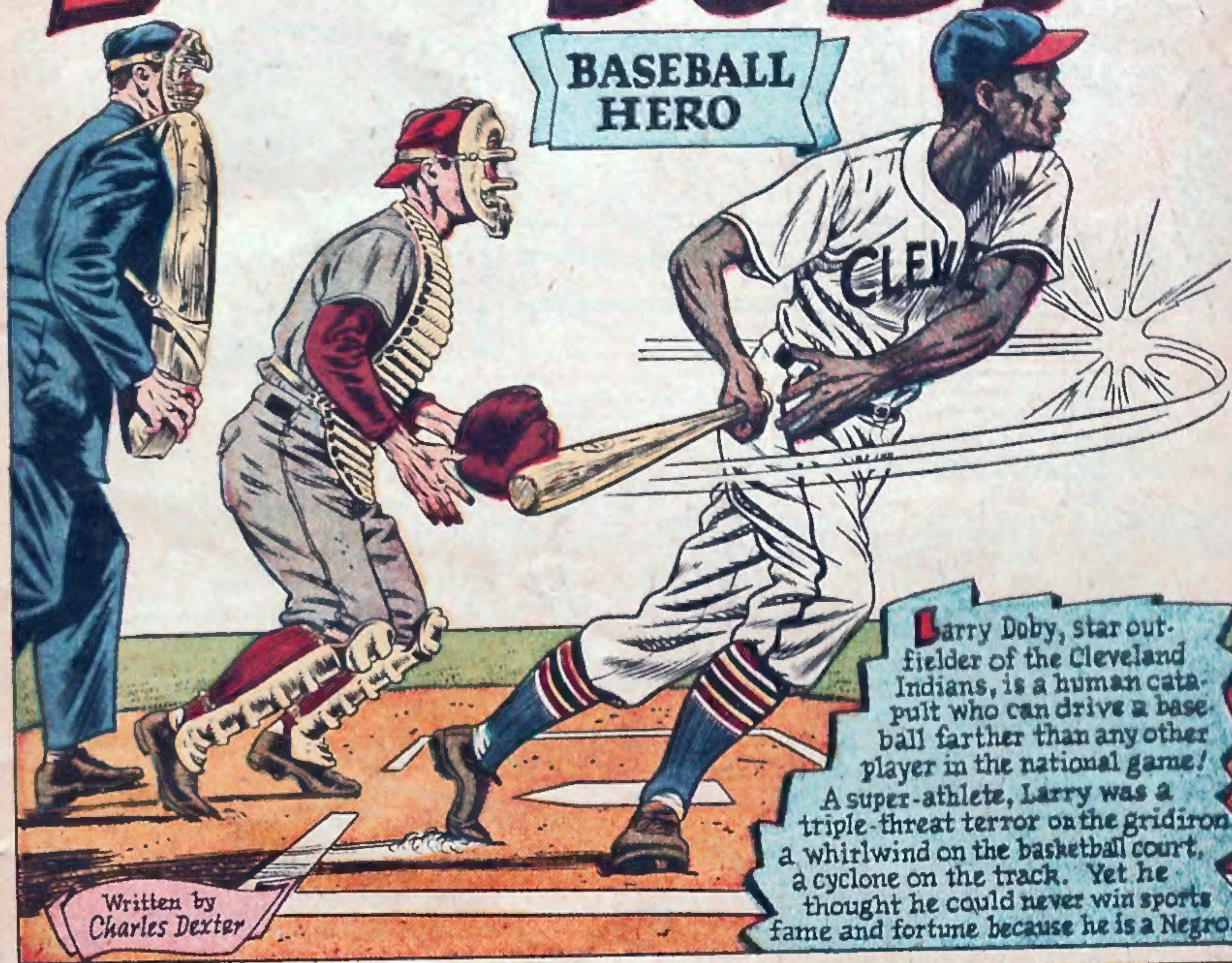
That's the most important lesson I learned during my first two years in the major leagues.

With best wishes to all my fans,

Larry Doby.

Larry DOBY

BASEBALL
HERO



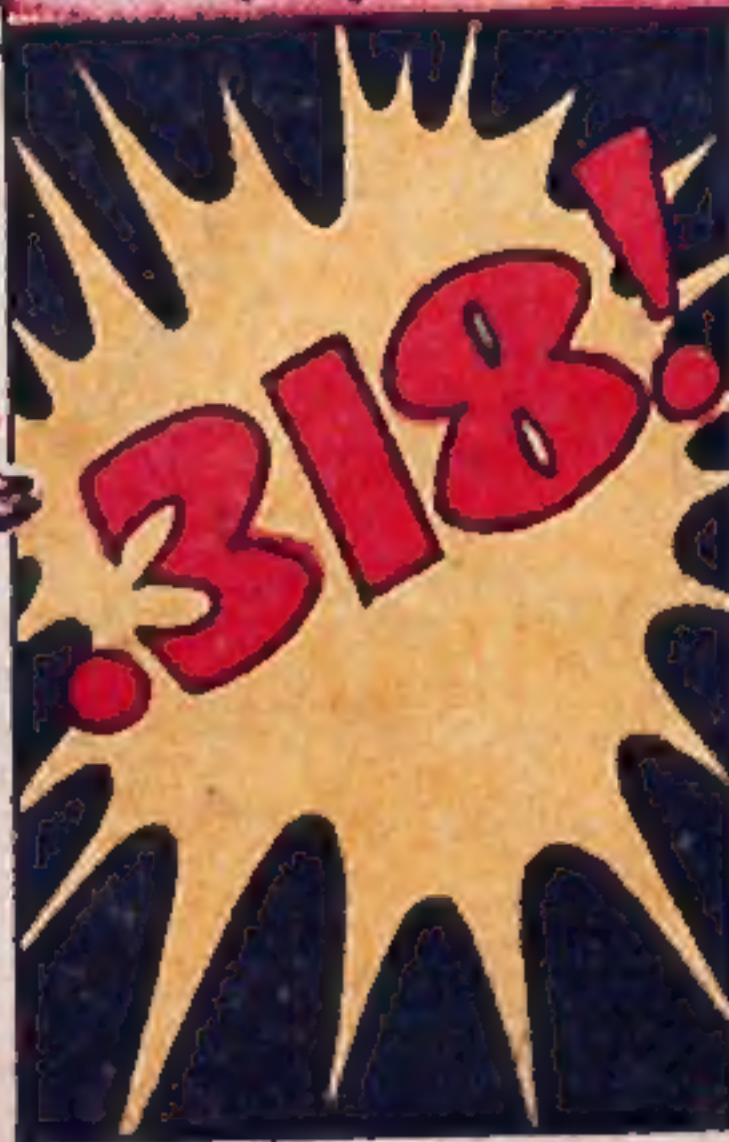
Written by
Charles Dexter

Larry Doby, star outfielder of the Cleveland Indians, is a human catapult who can drive a baseball farther than any other player in the national game! A super-athlete, Larry was a triple-threat terror on the gridiron, a whirlwind on the basketball court, a cyclone on the track. Yet he thought he could never win sports fame and fortune because he is a Negro!

Larry was a thirteen-letter man and New Jersey's most famous all-around high school athlete from 1938 to 1942!

Larry led the Champion Cleveland Indians at bat in the 1948 World Series with an average of...

On May 25, 1949, Larry hit the longest homer in the history of baseball!



Larry Doby was born on December 13, 1924, in the little town of Camden, deep in the long leaf pine country of South Carolina! His athletic young father raised thoroughbred horses, riding them like the wind that souged through the pine woods where Larry played as a little boy!



At six, Larry already knew how to ride his favorite pony!

CAREFUL, SON!

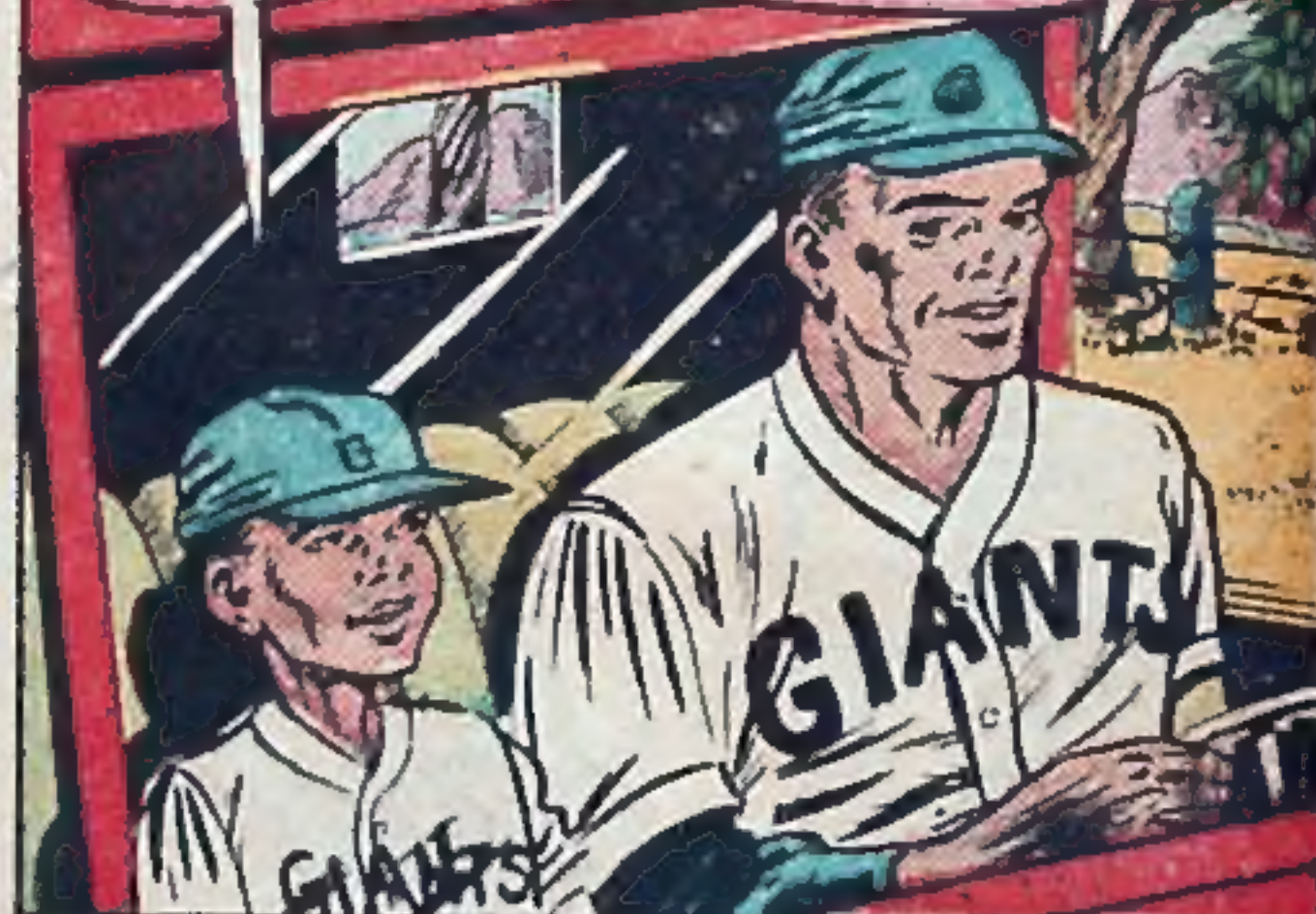
YIPPEE!



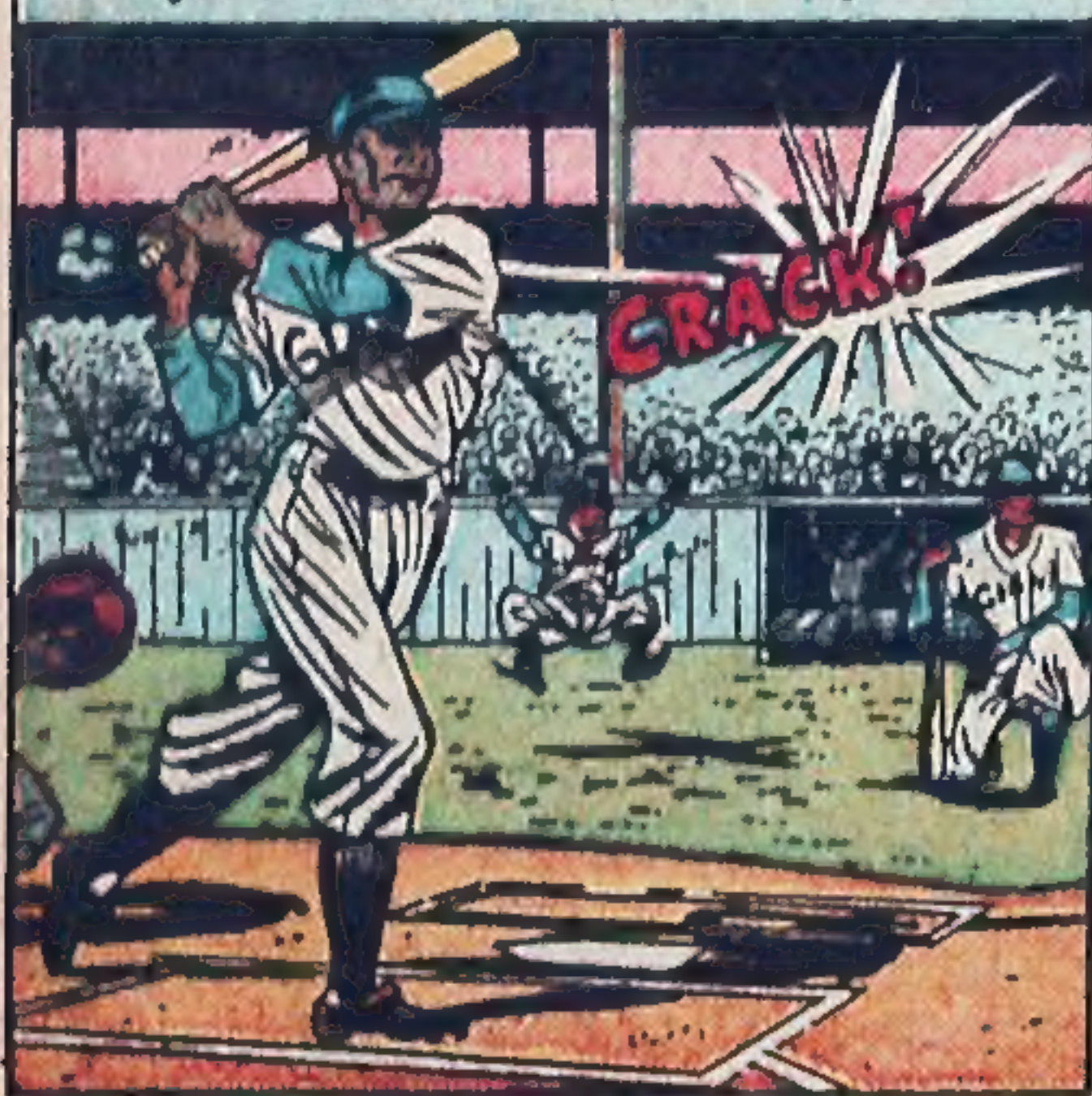
On summer Saturdays, Larry drove to town with his father, who played first base for the Camden Giants, a local semi-pro team!

MAY I PLAY FIRST BASE TODAY, POP?

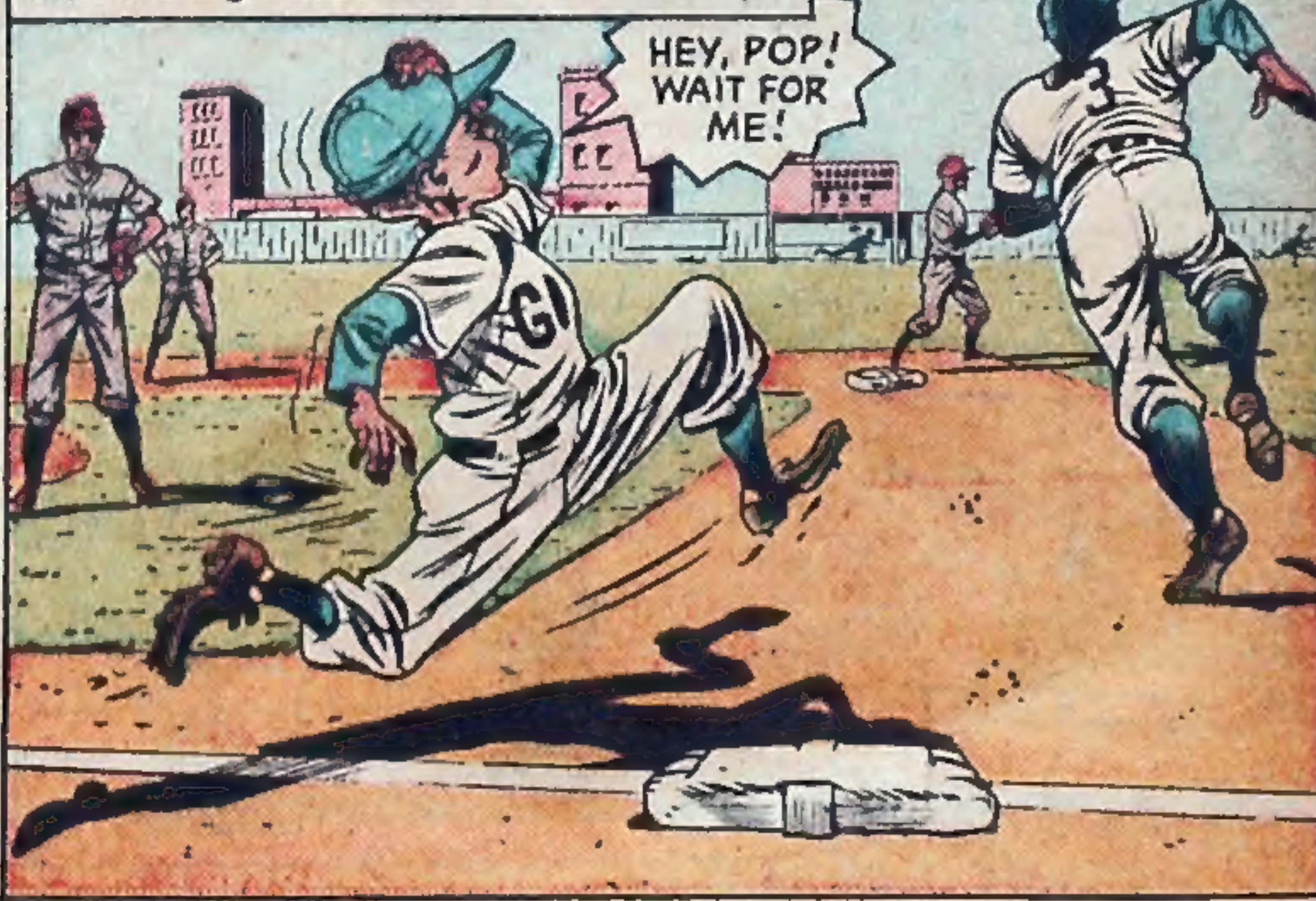
NOT TODAY, LARRY, BUT MAYBE YOU'LL PLAY FIRST FOR THE CAMDEN GIANTS WHEN YOU GROW UP!



That afternoon, Pa Doby smashed a terrific drive into deep center field.



As Pa Doby raced around the bases...



HERE I COME, POP!

THAT KID CAN SURE PICK 'EM UP AND LAY 'EM DOWN!



When Larry was eight, a terrible calamity shattered the happy Doby family! Larry's pal, his father, was stricken with pneumonia!



A few weeks later...



Mrs. Doby decided to visit northern friends at Paterson, New Jersey! Before she left South Carolina, she enrolled Larry in Mather Academy, a school for Negro boys!



Larry studied hard at Mather Academy and earned high marks! But there was one thing about the school that he did not like!



When the school year was over, Larry journeyed north to Paterson, and...

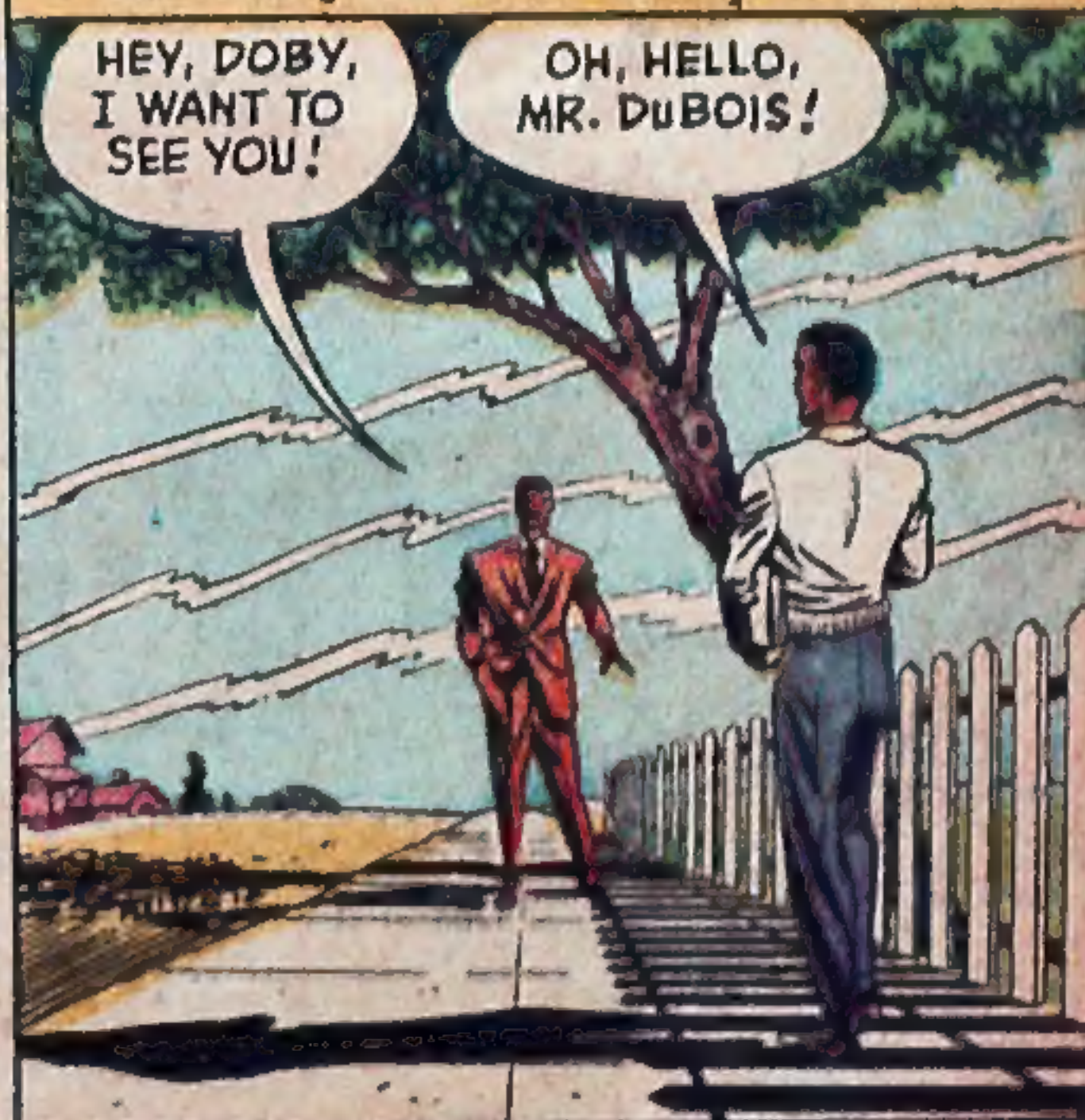


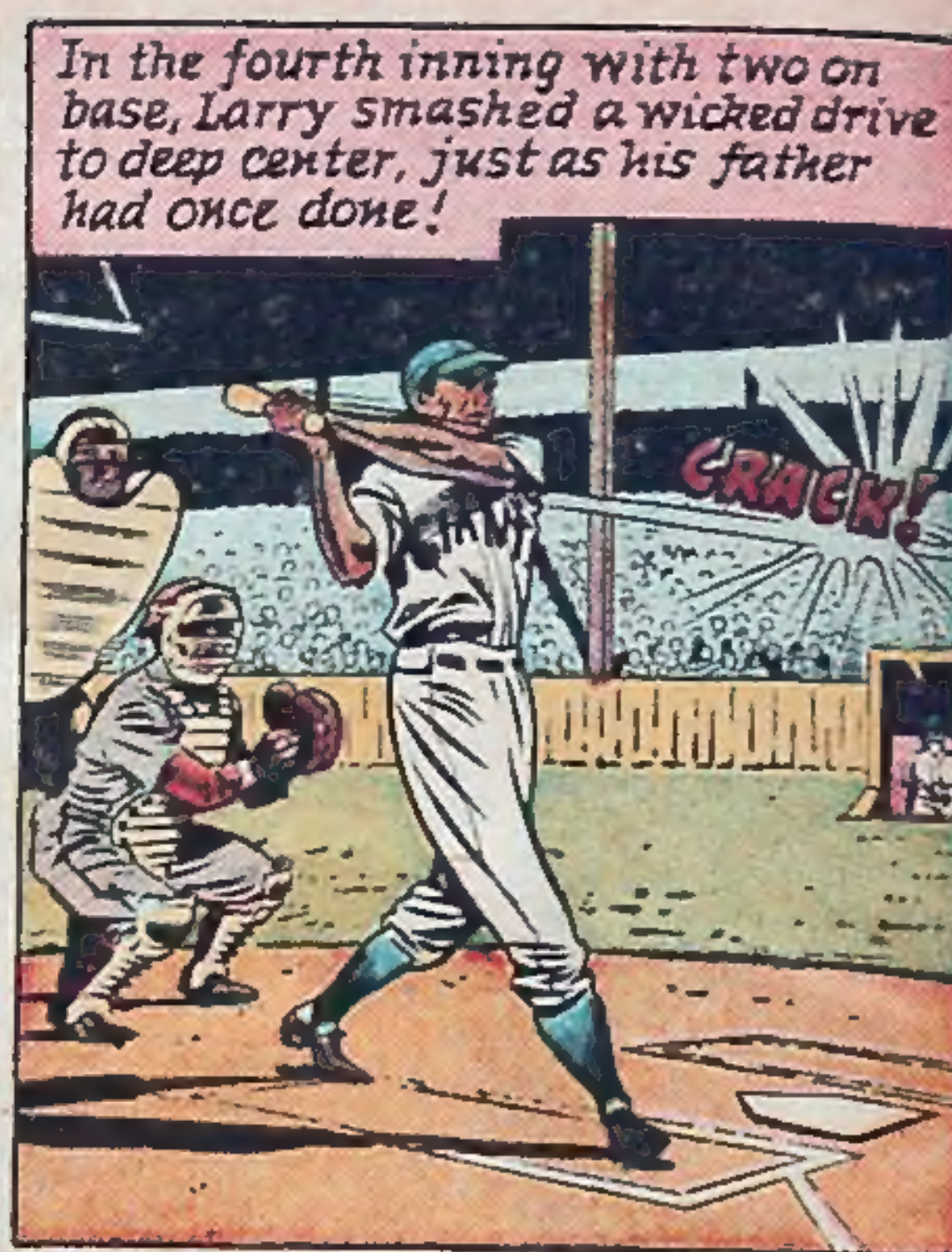
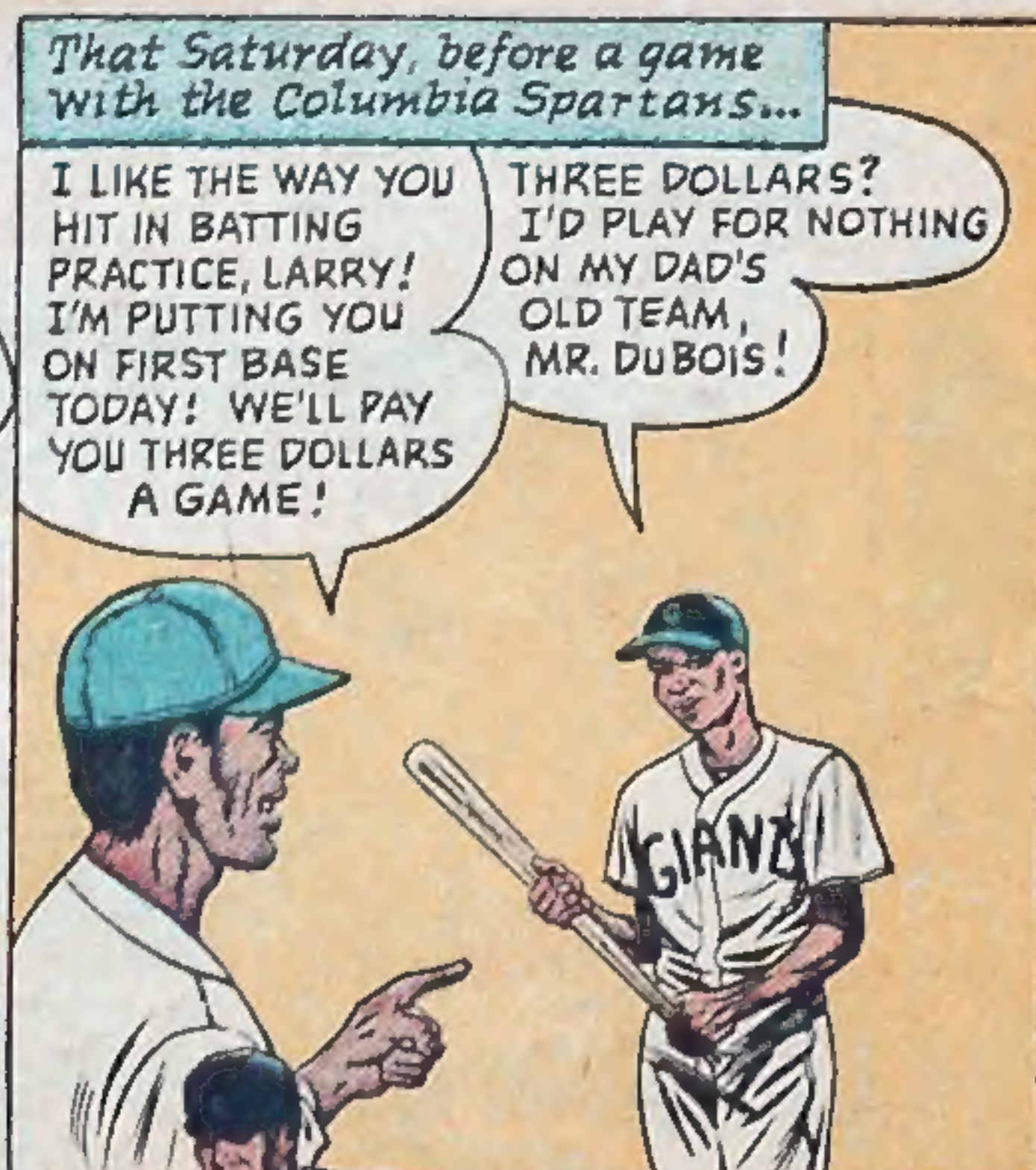
A few days later...



That summer, Larry often played shortstop on playground teams in Paterson's city parks where his speed and hard hitting won the admiration of his white teammates!

The following spring, as Larry left Mather Academy for a walk in Camden...





Larry's happy days in Camden were over! He was a big boy now, nearly six feet tall, weighing 155 pounds. He had proved he was a good scholar, and as he traveled north to Paterson a fierce ambition burned in his breast! He wanted to play ball, any kind of ball, basketball, football--and especially baseball! What would the future bring?





When the annals of high school sports are written in the state of New Jersey, one name will shine brilliantly above all others - that of Larry Doby! His superhuman feats on fields of play broke record after record, won prize after prize!

He was a thirteen-letter man, who carried Eastside High, his Alma Mater, to many a glorious triumph! He was a one-man baseball, basketball, football and track team!

In the fall of 1938, Larry was a freshman at Eastside High in Paterson. He answered the call for the freshman football team!

WORK OUT WITH THE A SQUAD, DOBY! WHAT POSITION DO YOU PLAY?

WHY, SIR, I'VE NEVER PLAYED FOOTBALL BEFORE!

During trial sprints, Larry easily outdistanced the other candidates!

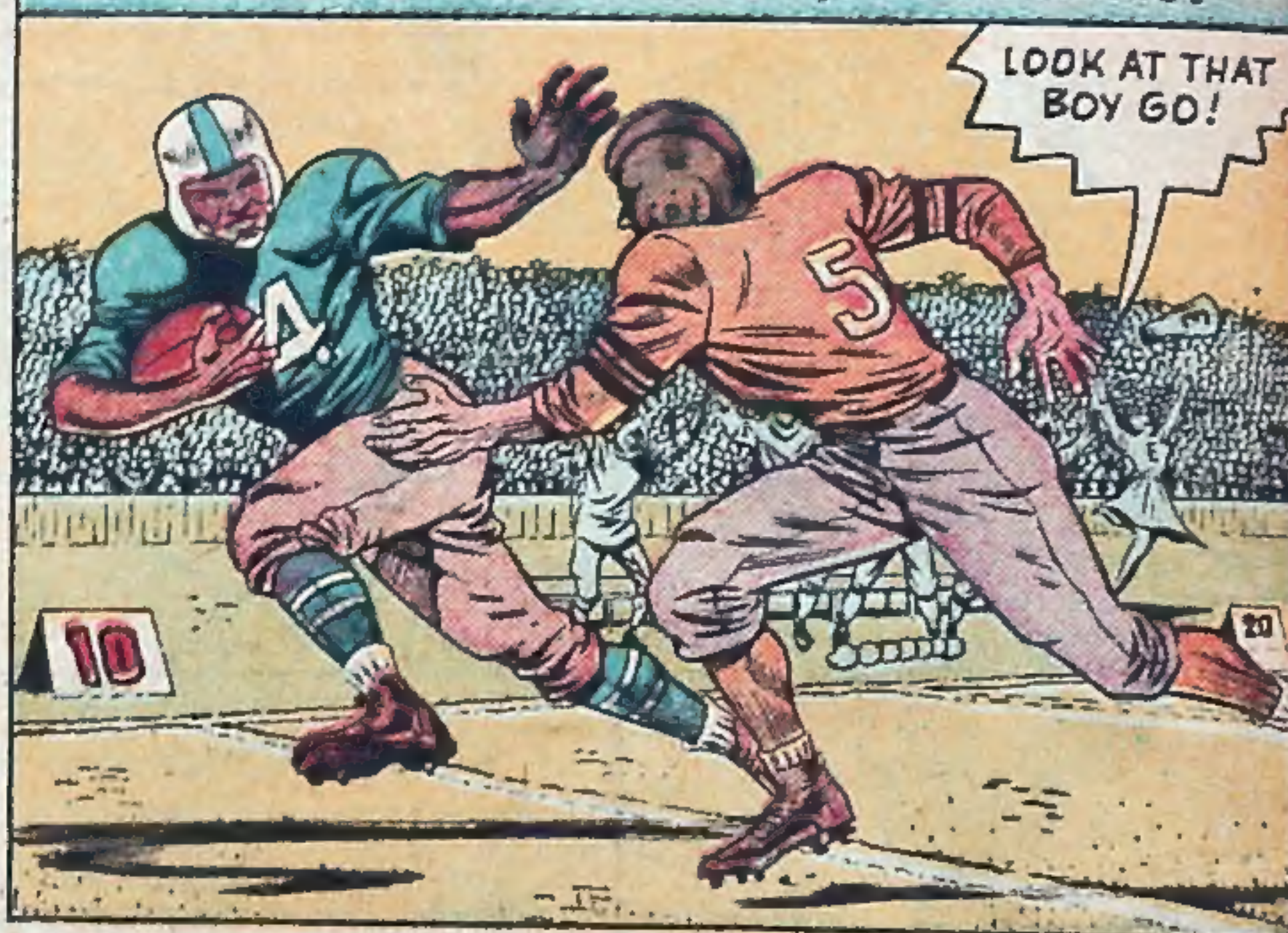
DOBY HAS THE HEIGHT AND SPEED TO BE A WONDERFUL END!



Teamed with Al Kachadurian, a clever passing back, Larry quickly learned the art of pass receiving!



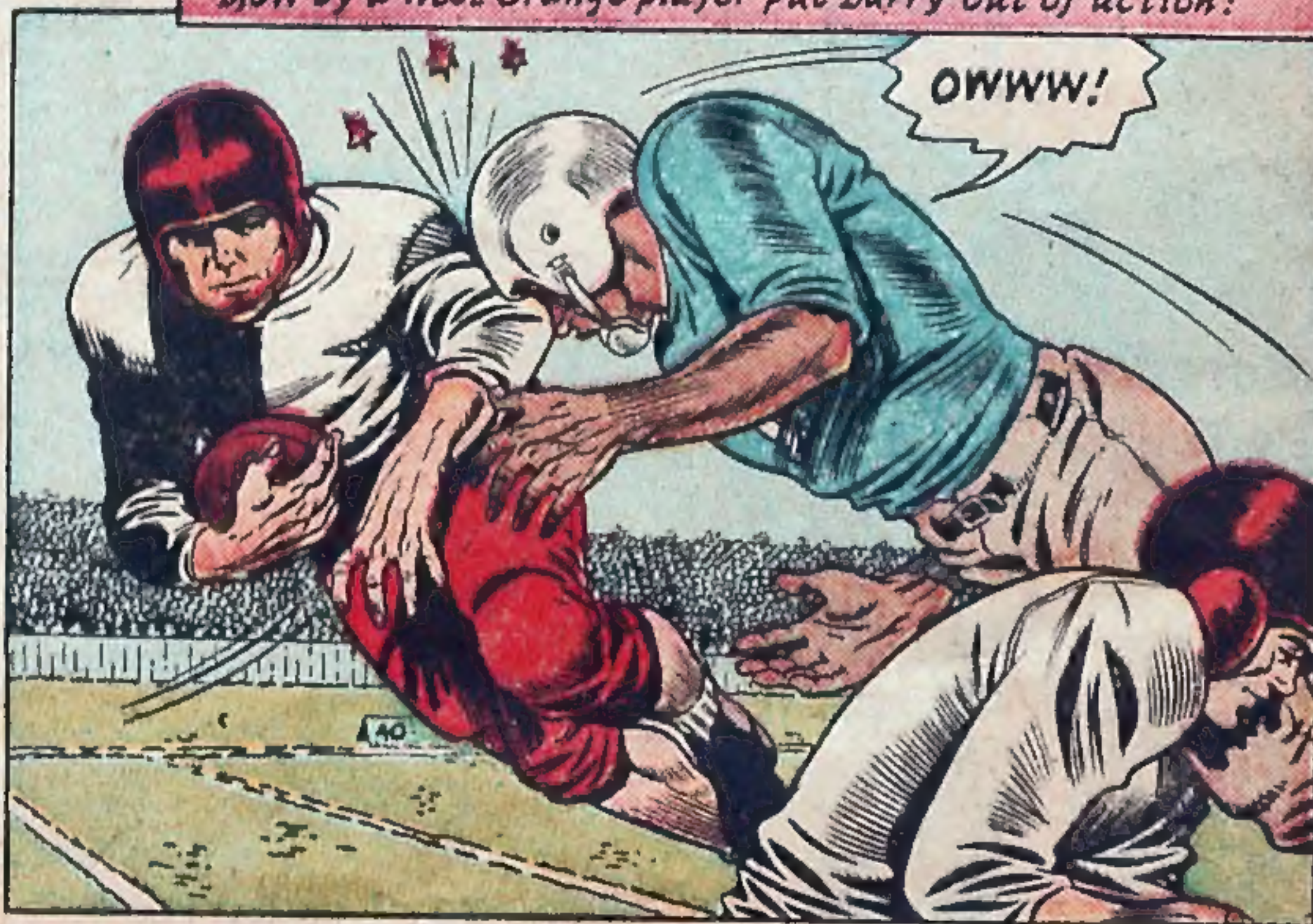
Larry starred in his very first game against the Clifton frosh, grabbing three passes for touchdowns!



Against the West Orange frosh, Larry's superior height twice helped him intercept passes for touchdowns!



But, in the fourth quarter period that day, an accidental blow by a West Orange player put Larry out of action!



SO YOU GOT HURT PLAYING FOOTBALL! I DON'T WANT YOU EVER TO PLAY THAT TERRIBLE GAME AGAIN!

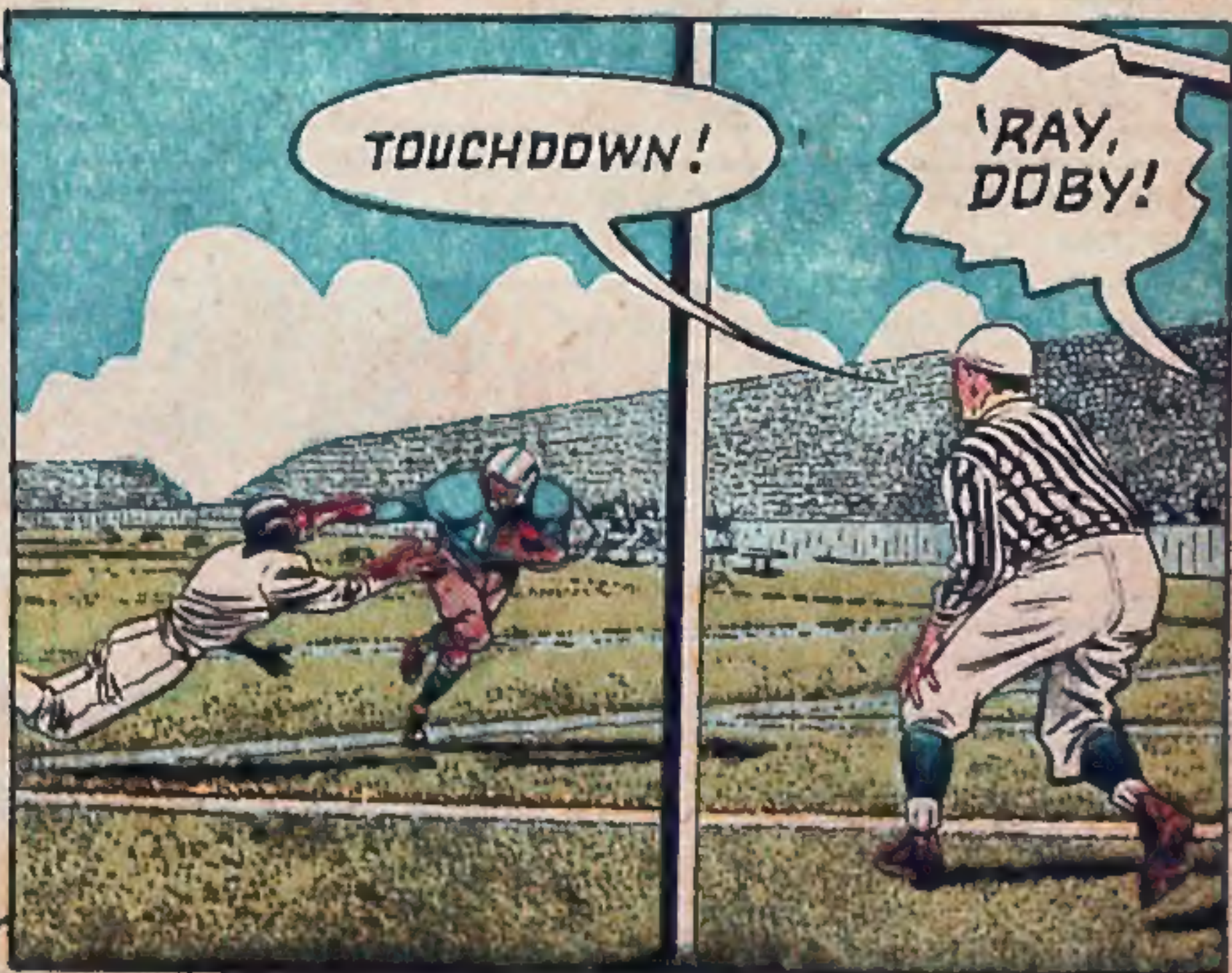
AW, MA, I'M NO SISSY! PLEASE LET ME PLAY!

Larry promised his mother he'd quit football! But the temptation was too great! Without telling her, he played against the Lincoln frosh!



TOUCHDOWN!

'RAY, DOBY!



Larry continued to excel in freshman sports, and as his sophomore year began, Eastside High already hailed him as a future football star! Still keeping his gridiron playing a secret from his mother, he won a starting assignment at right end! In the opening game against Clifton...

... Larry grabbed a fumble, swivel-kipped through the entire Clifton team for a touchdown, Eastside winning, 7 to 6!

SIS BOOM BAH!
RAH! RAH! RAH!
DOBY!

THAT
DOBY CAN
PIVOT ON
A DIME!



The following day...

LARRY! COME
HERE AT ONCE!

YES, MA,
I'M
COMING!



YOU PROMISED NEVER
TO PLAY FOOTBALL
AGAIN, LARRY!

BUT I LOVE
FOOTBALL, MA!
YOU WOULD, TOO,
IF YOU'D COME WITH
ME TO NEXT WEEK'S
GAME!



Reluctantly, Ma Doby agreed to attend
the Eastside-Montclair game!

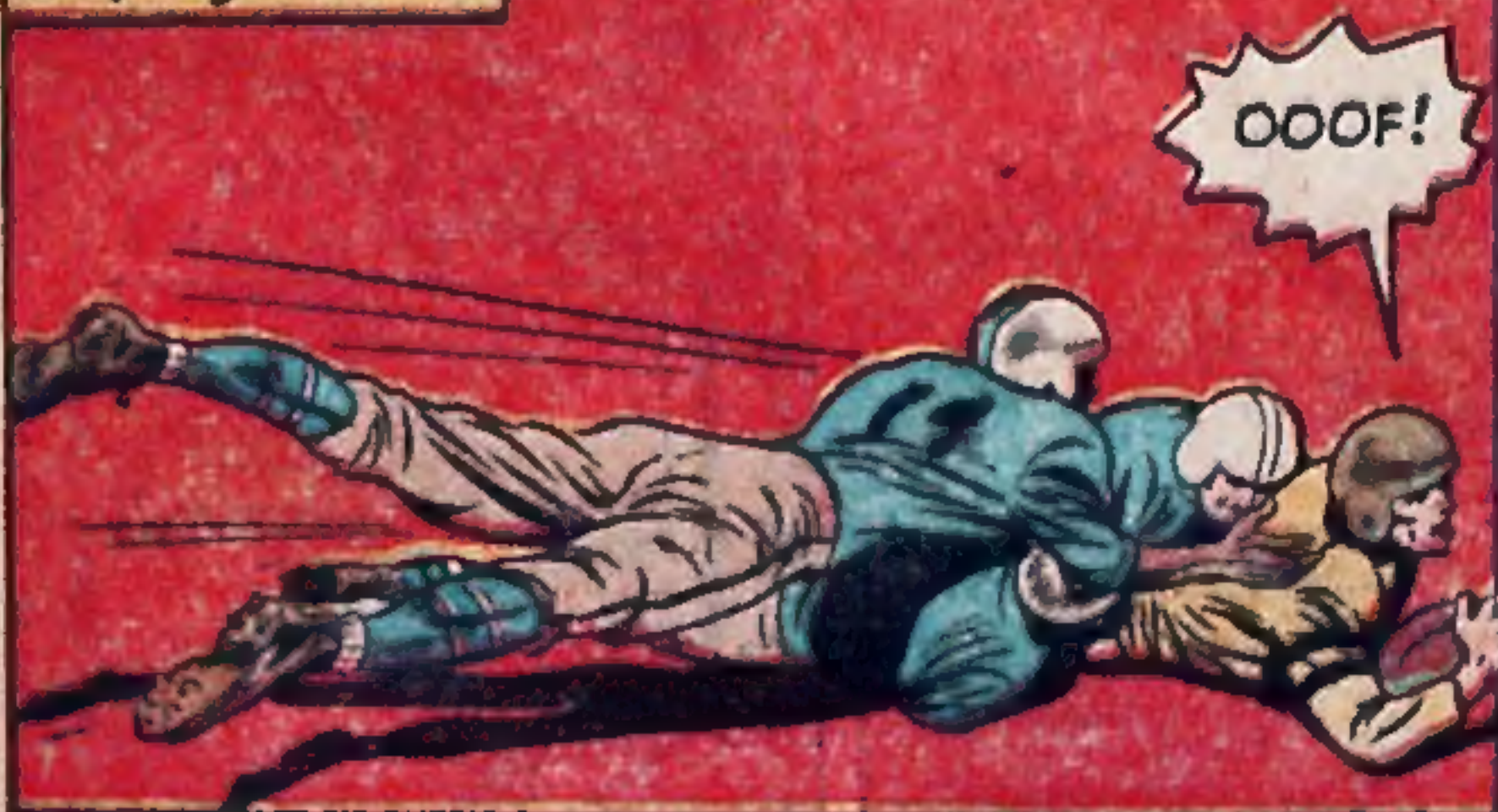
I CAN'T LOOK AT THOSE POOR BOYS!
I KNOW MY LARRY WILL GET
KILLED! OH...

ARE YOU
LARRY DOBY'S
MOTHER?
HE'S A
WONDERFUL
PLAYER!



Eastside and Montclair battled fiercely through
the first half in a scoreless tie! As the second
half began...

OOOF!



OH, MY LEG!
OOOOH!



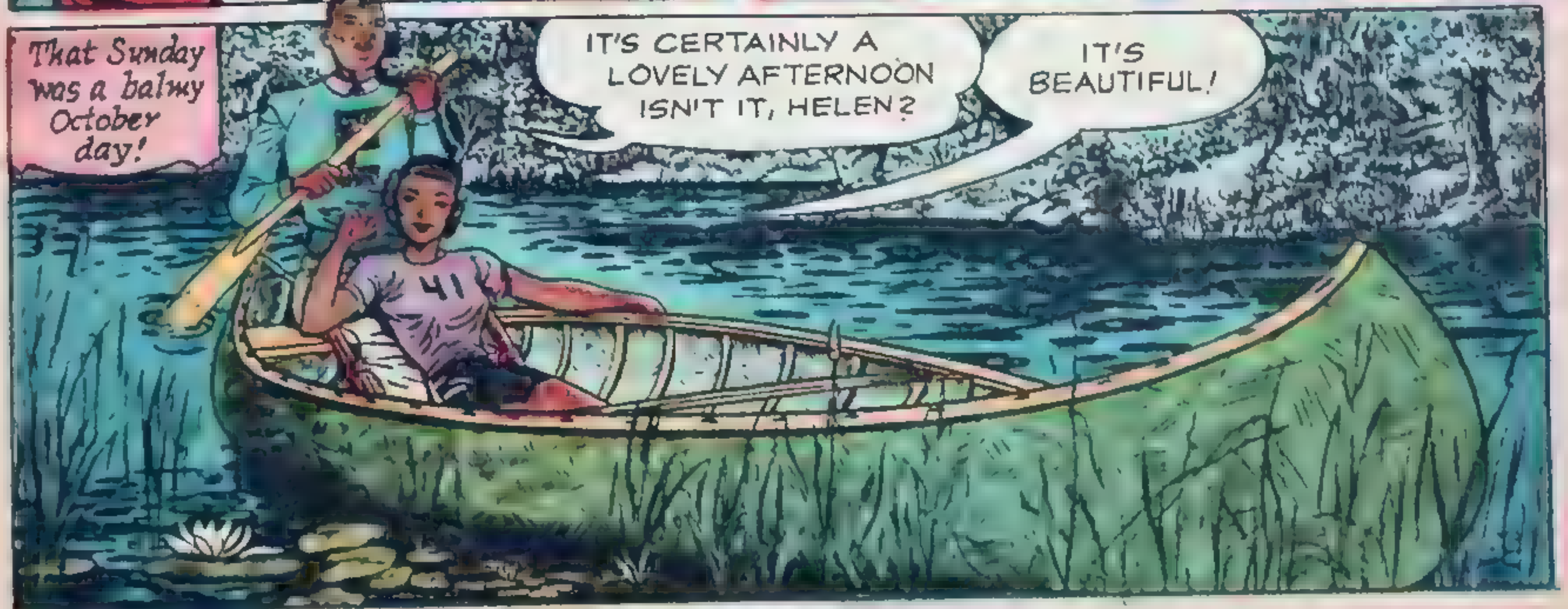
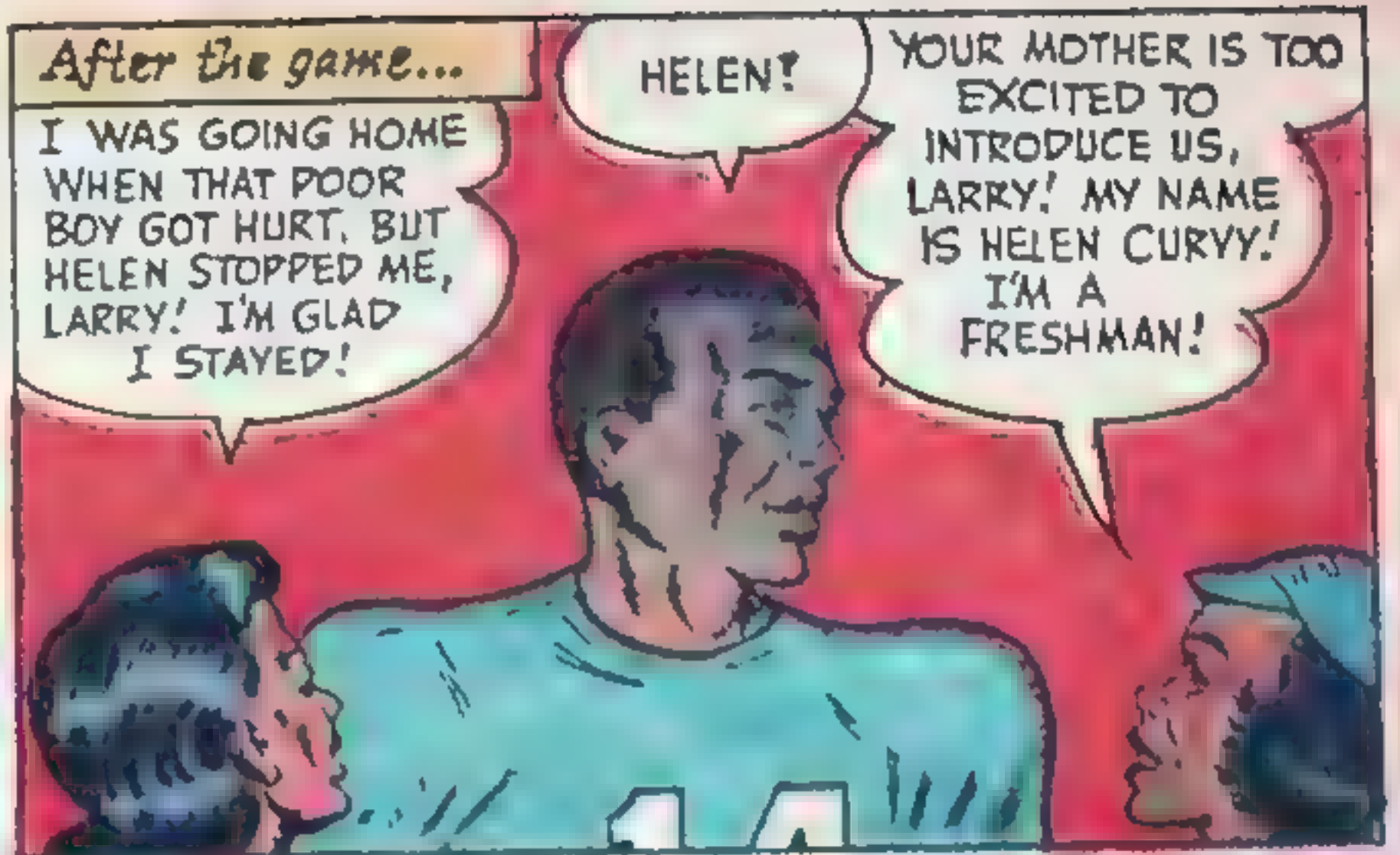
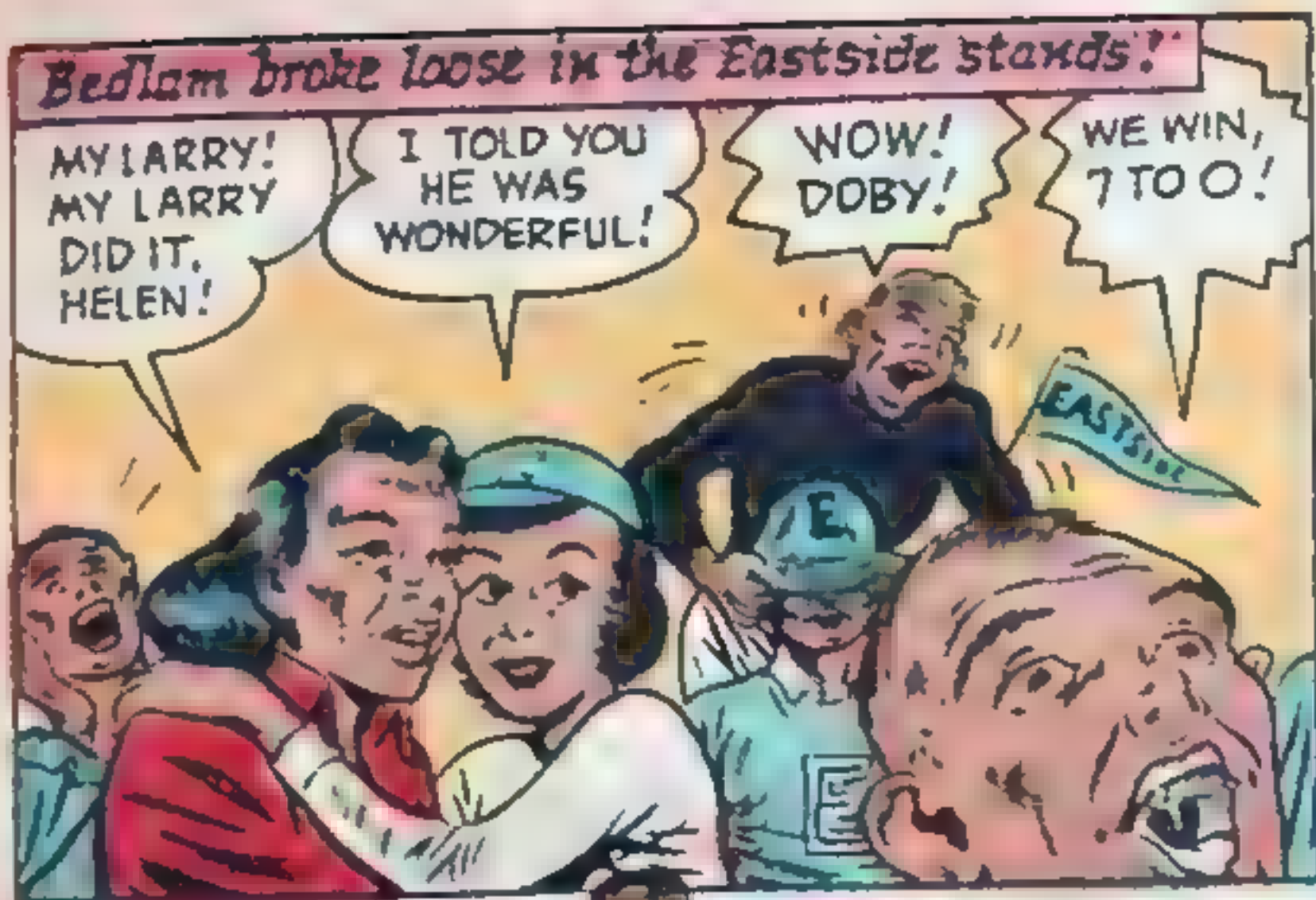


Kachadurian faked a reverse to the left halfback...

...then heaved a tremendous pass downfield!



Then Larry kicked a perfect extra point!



When the football season ended, Larry turned to basketball! In a thrill-packed game against the champion Garfield five, Larry caged twenty-four points to lead Eastside to a 51 to 50 triumph!



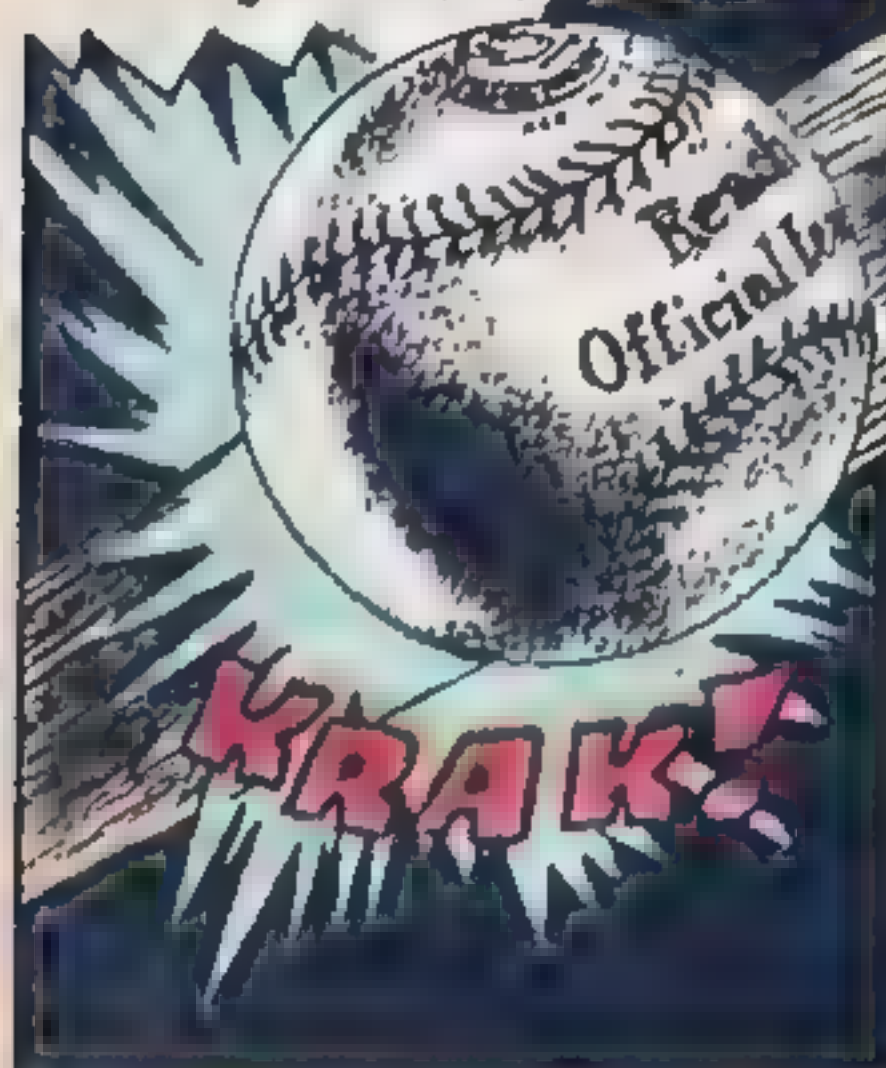
Larry's speed quickly won him a place on the track team. In the 440-yard dash...



Larry also won the running broad jump in the New Jersey All-State track meet with a mark of 21 feet, 11 1/4 inches!



But when spring rolled around, Larry was happiest -- he could play baseball again! In Eastside's first practice he poled many drives!



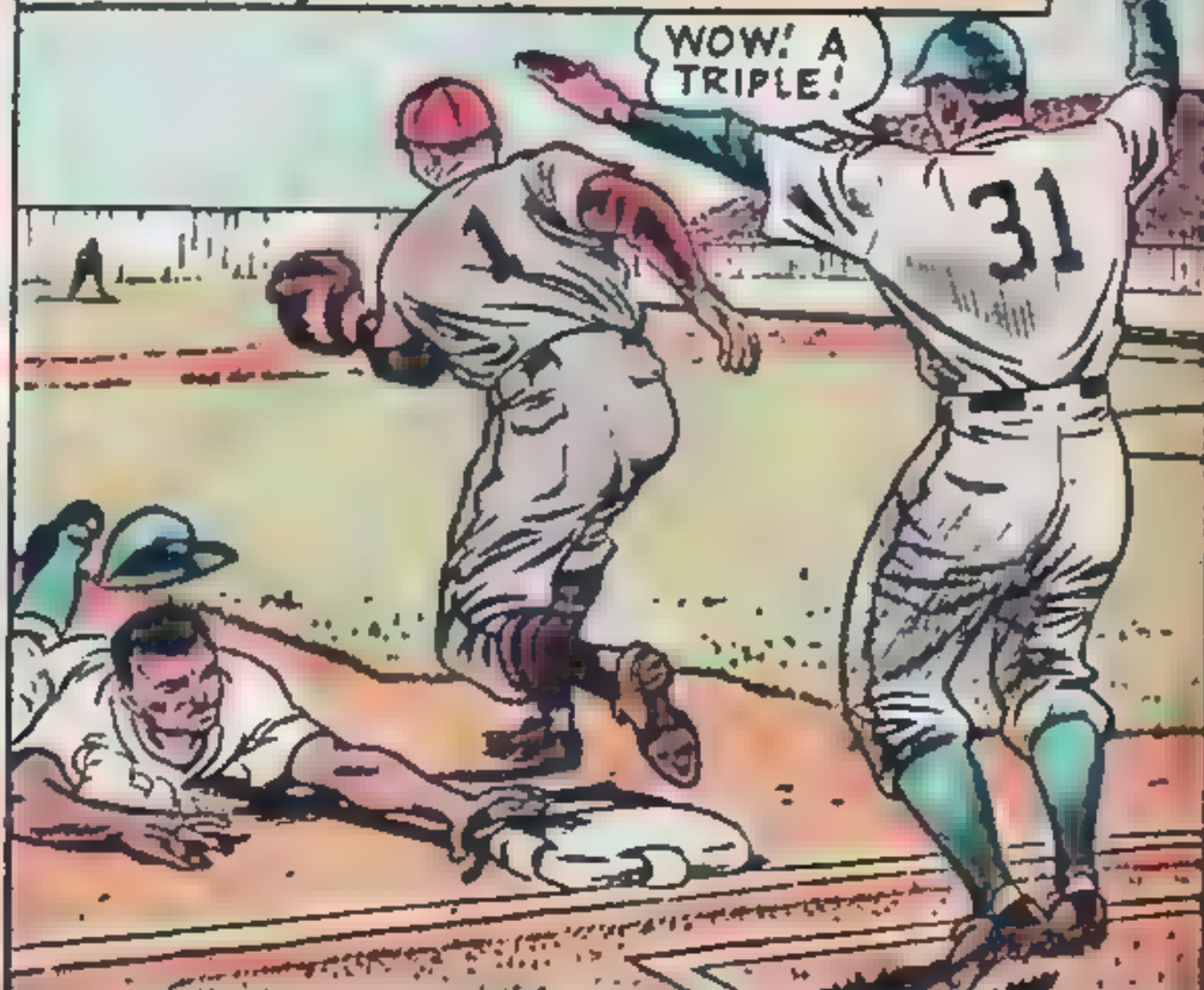
Coach Al Livingstone was delighted with Larry's power!

THE FIRST BASE JOB IS YOURS, LARRY! YOU'LL HIT IN THE CLEANUP SPOT!

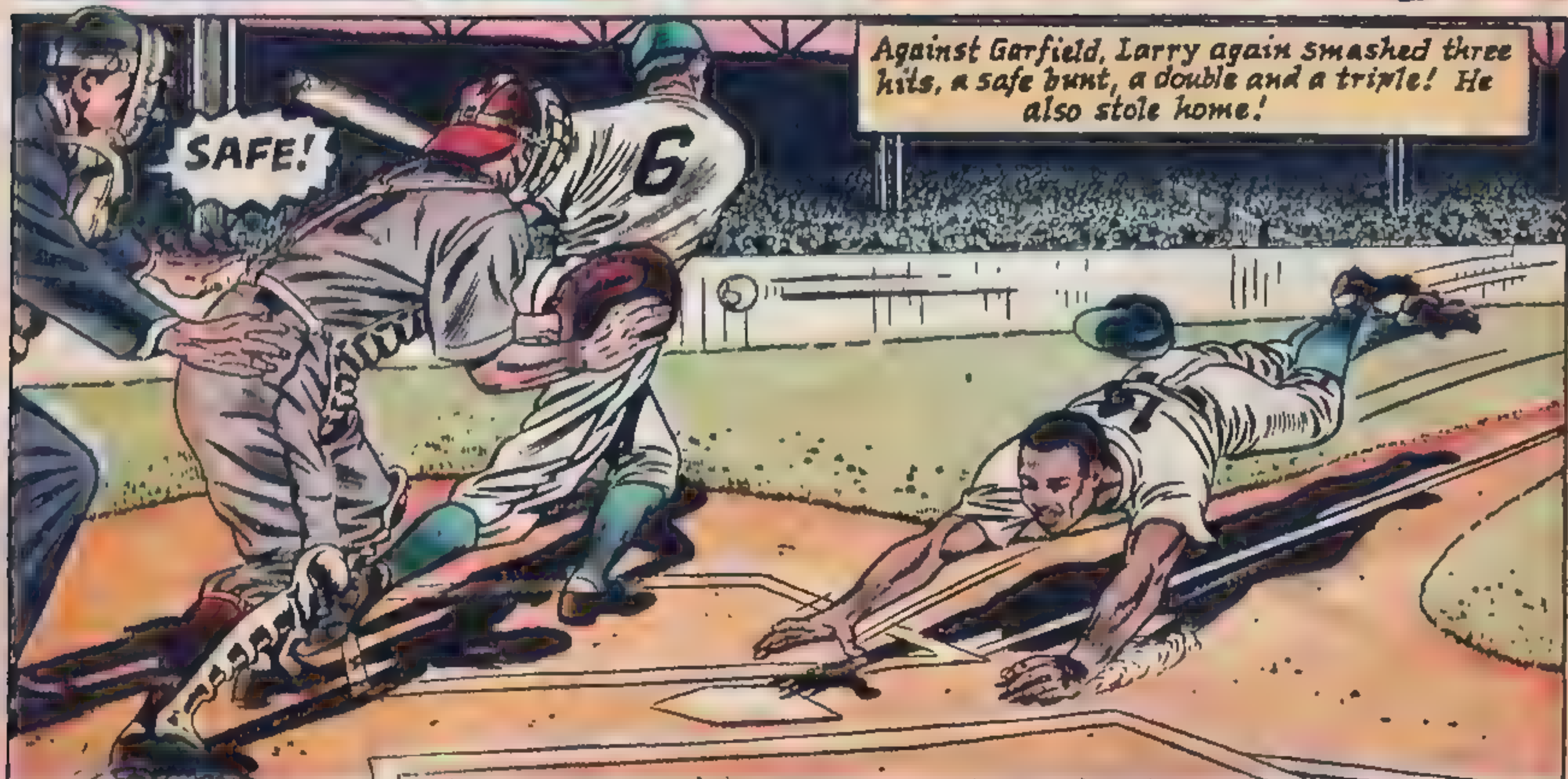
THANKS, COACH!



Larry joyously celebrated by banging three hits against Ramsey High, winning almost single handed, 8 to 5!



WOW! A TRIPLE!



Against Garfield, Larry again smashed three hits, a safe bunt, a double and a triple! He also stole home!

By midseason, Larry was batting a phenomenal .667!

LOOK WHAT THE PAPER SAYS ABOUT ME, MA!

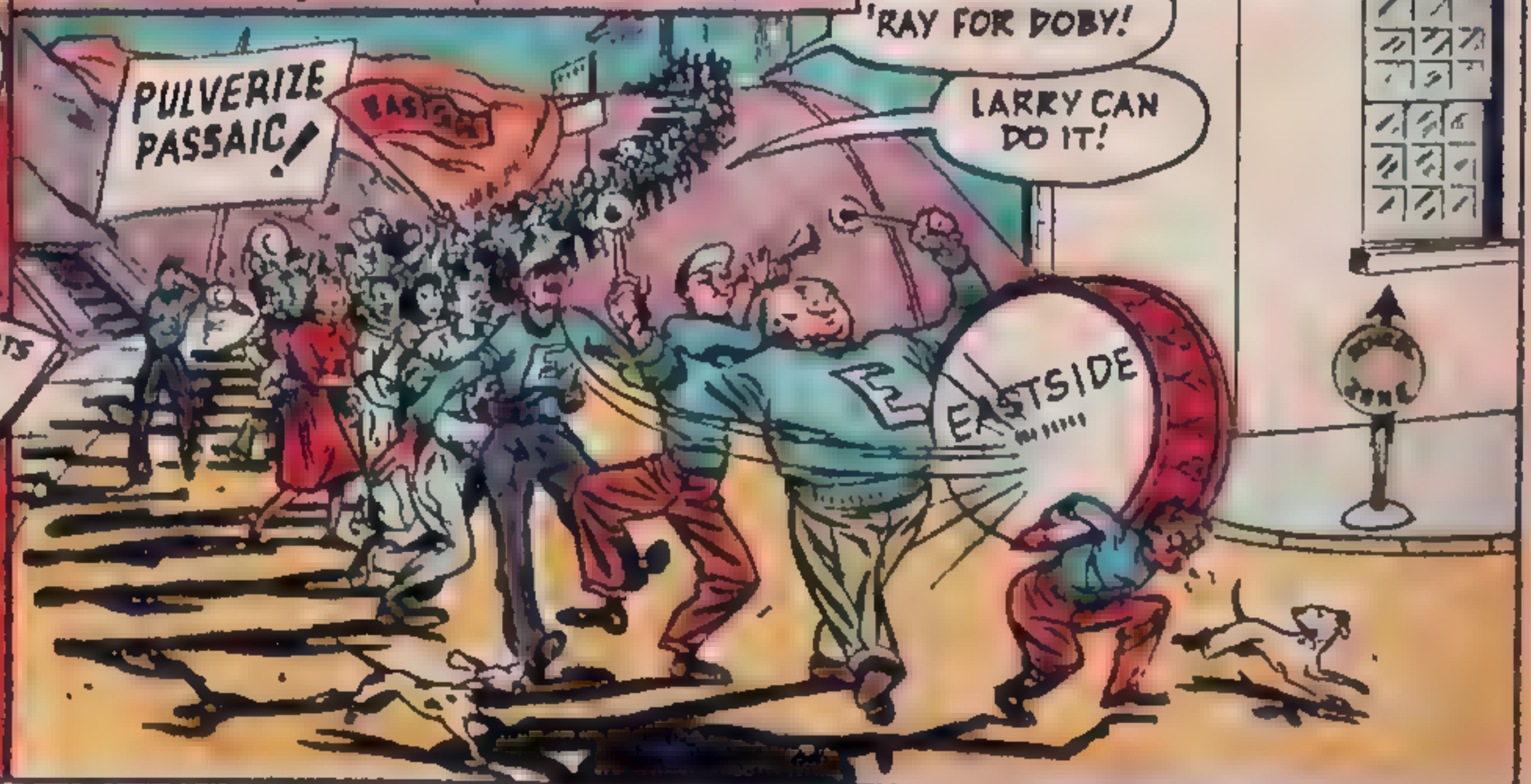
DON'T LET ALL THOSE STORIES GO TO YOUR HEAD, SON!

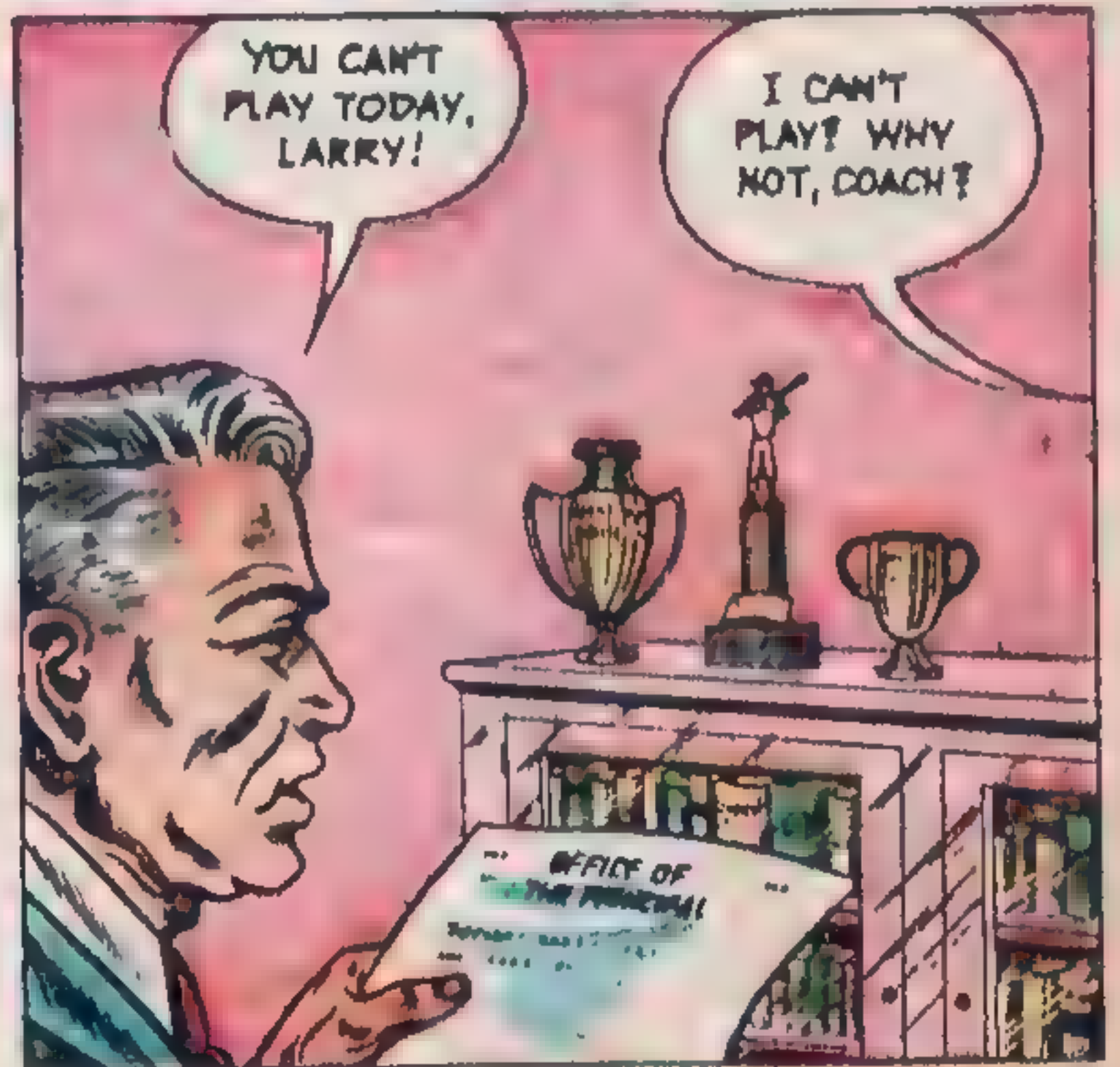
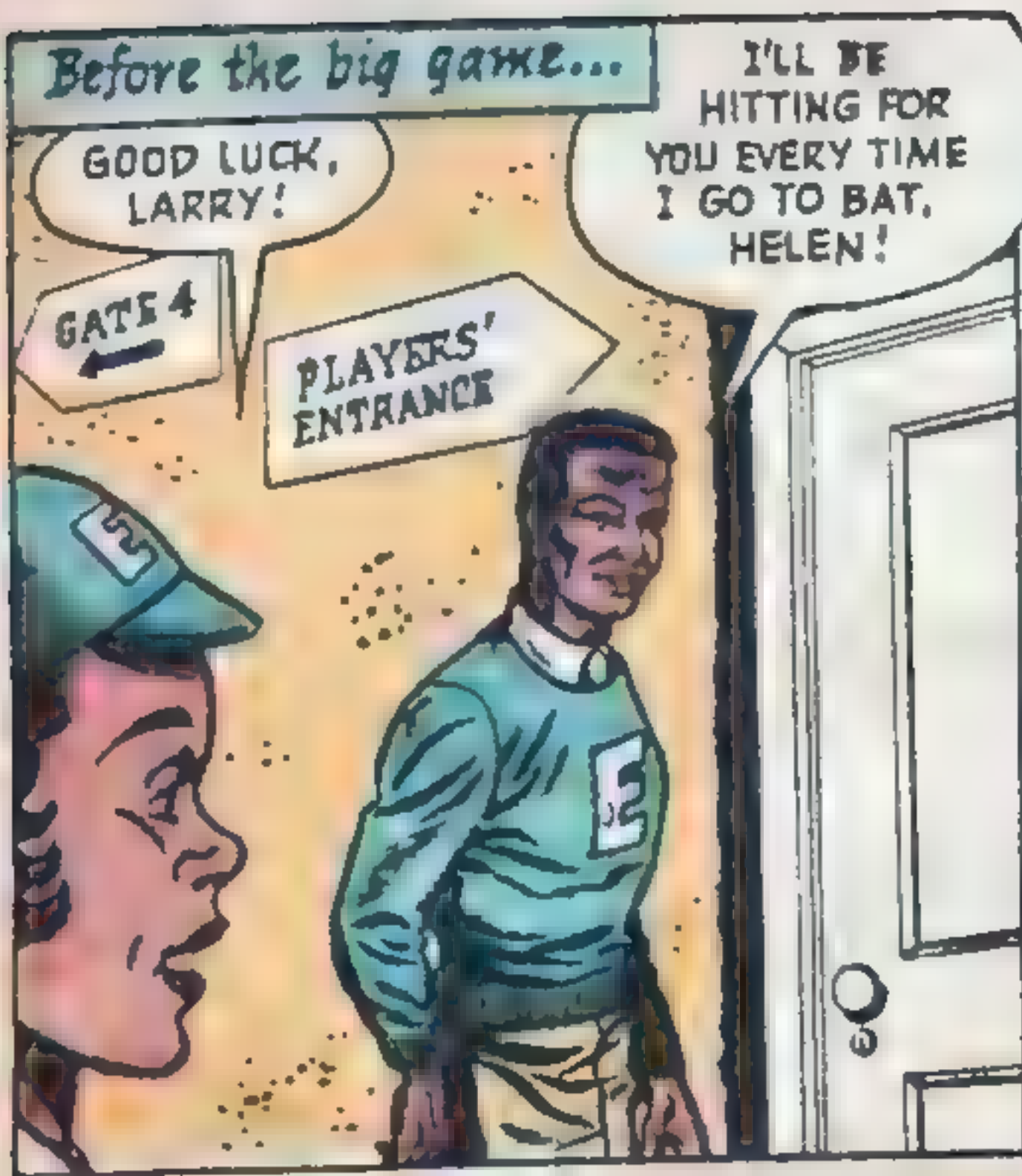
SPORTS -- Paterson News -- SPORTS
DOBY GREATEST STAR IN EASTSIDE HISTORY!

Holds Many School Records Which Will Probably Never Be Broken!

HEMLOCK PLAYS RIB SOX!

Passaic High was Eastside's fiercest rival! On the night before the big game, a monster rally was held on the campus!



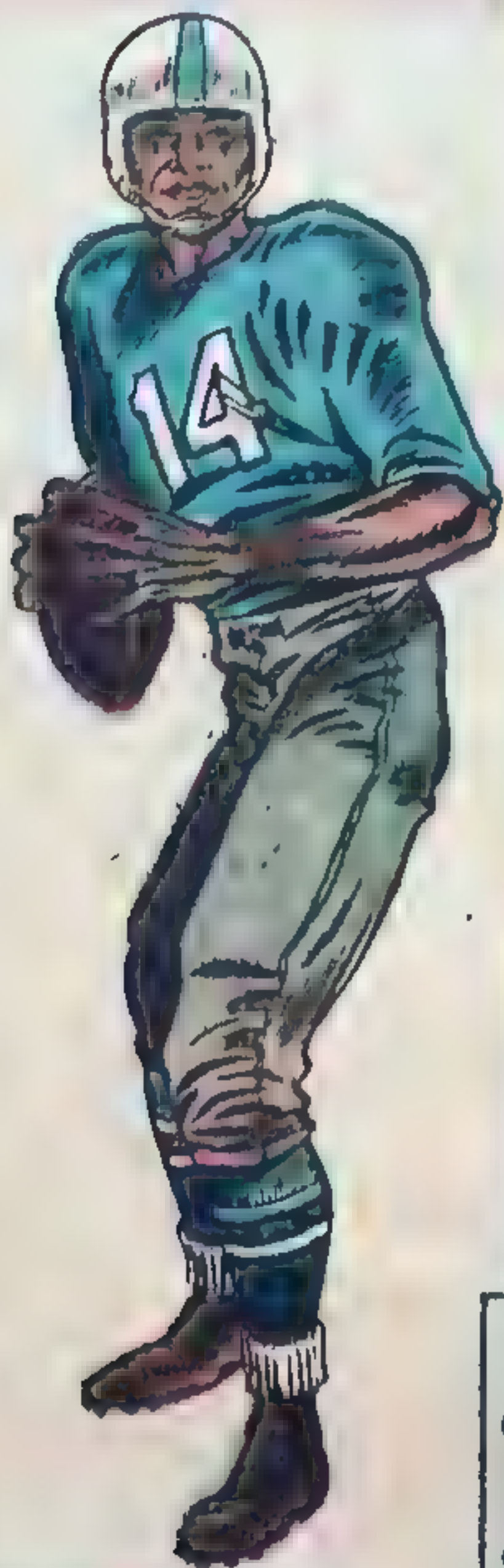


That evening, Helen visited Larry's home!



Larry never forgot the lesson he learned on the day of the Passaic game. Studying hard, he passed his exams and when fall came he again led Eastside to victory after victory on the gridiron.

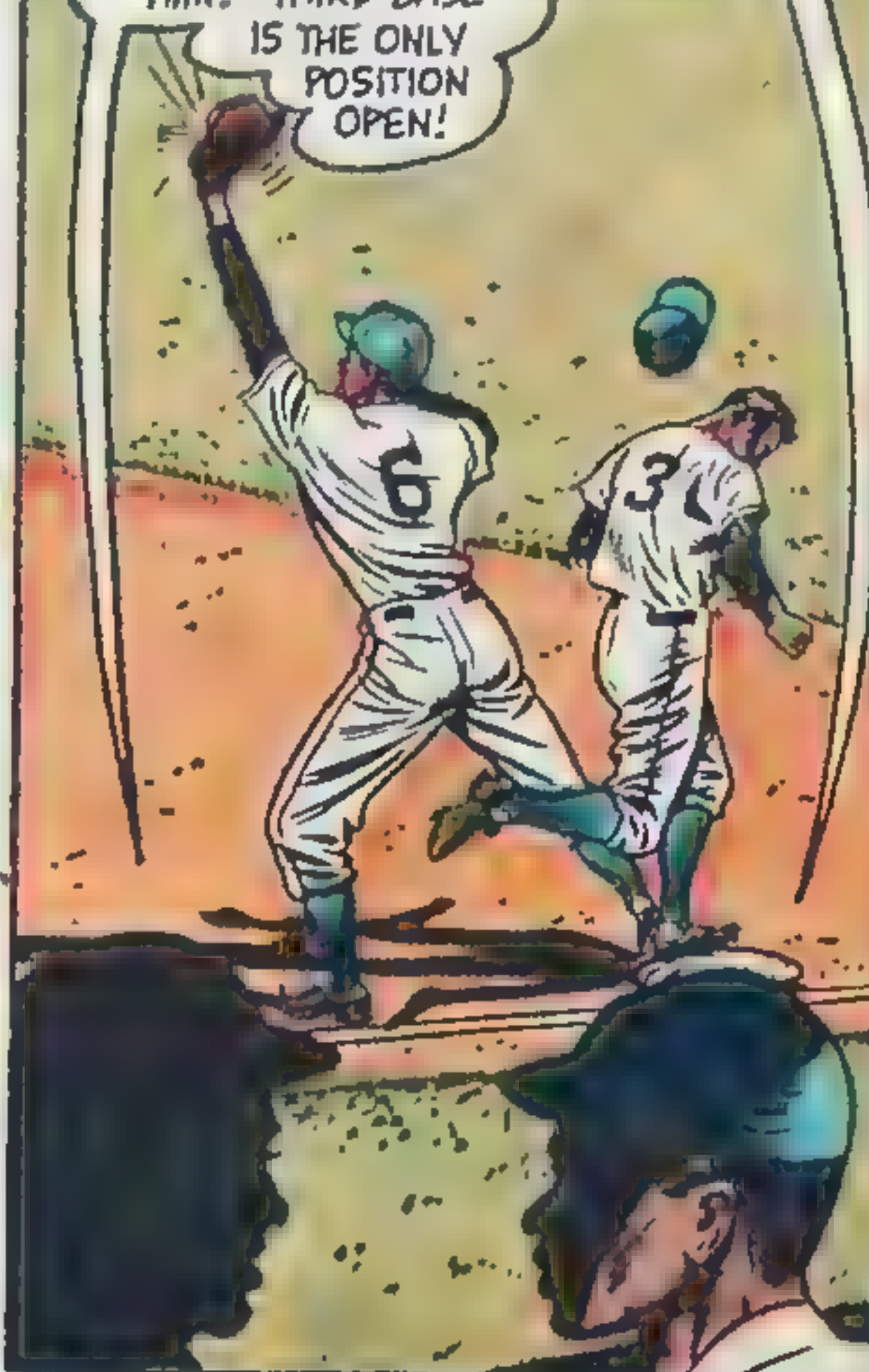
Shifted to halfback in 1941, Larry became a triple-threat star for Eastside! By the season's end he was unanimously picked for New Jersey's All-State Eleven!



As Spring baseball practice began...

I'M SORRY, LARRY, BUT GEORGE BRISTOW PLAYED A GREAT GAME FOR US AT FIRST BASE LAST YEAR AND THAT JOB BELONGS TO HIM! THIRD BASE IS THE ONLY POSITION OPEN!

I UNDERSTAND, COACH! I'VE NEVER PLAYED THIRD, BUT I'LL TRY!



And Larry soon starred at third, spearing line drives, trapping bunts, hitting a hard, timely .537!



With Eastside leading 7 to 6, Clifton filled the bases in the ninth with one out! But Larry snared a sizzling grounder, touched second and whizzed the ball to first for a game-saving double play!

During a hotly-contested game against Clifton, Eastside shortstop Ed Altschuler was badly spiked!

YOU'LL BE OUT FOR A MONTH, ED!

I'VE PLAYED SHORTSTOP IN SANDLOT GAMES, COACH!

OKAY, LARRY! TAKE ED'S PLACE!

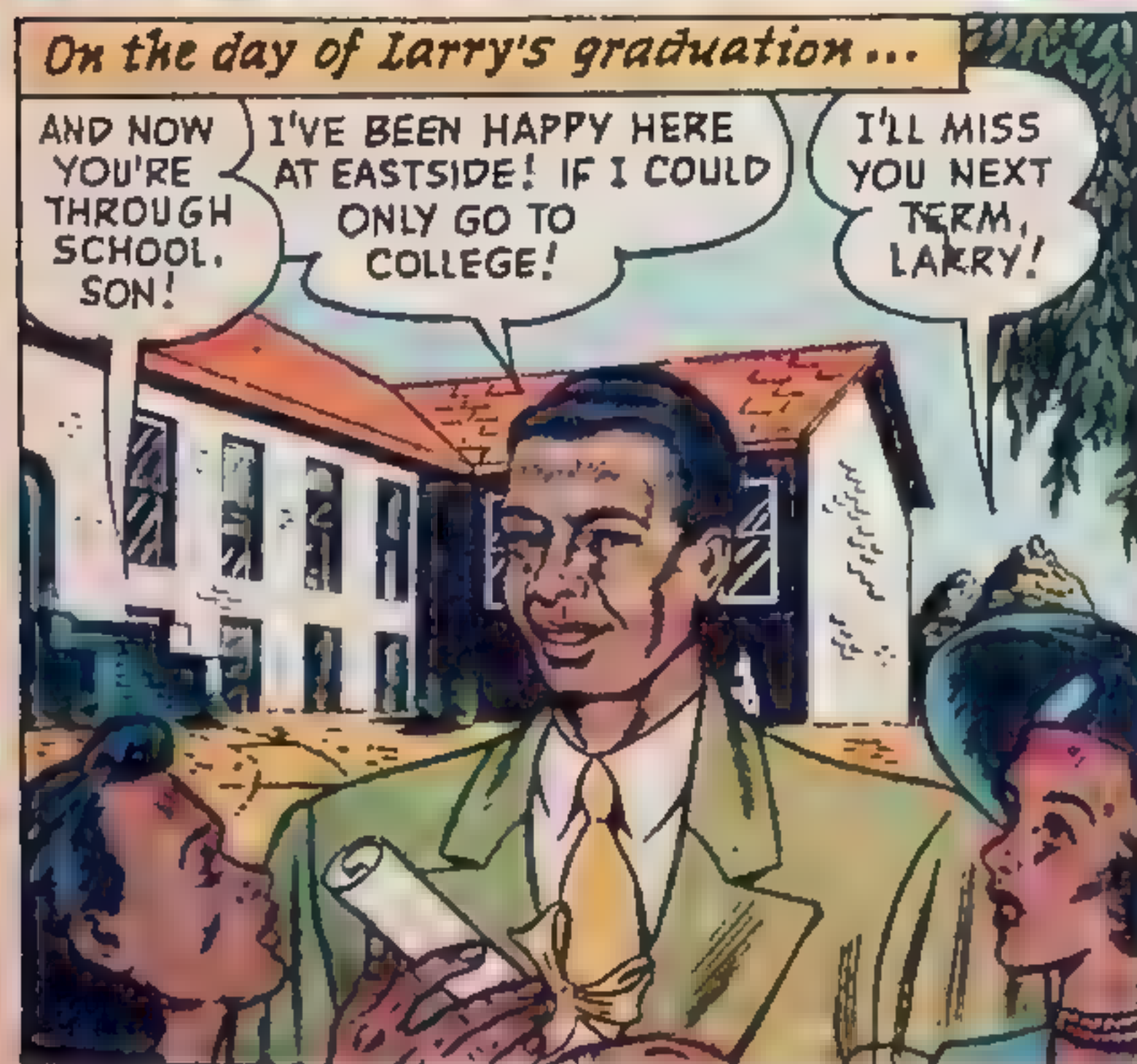
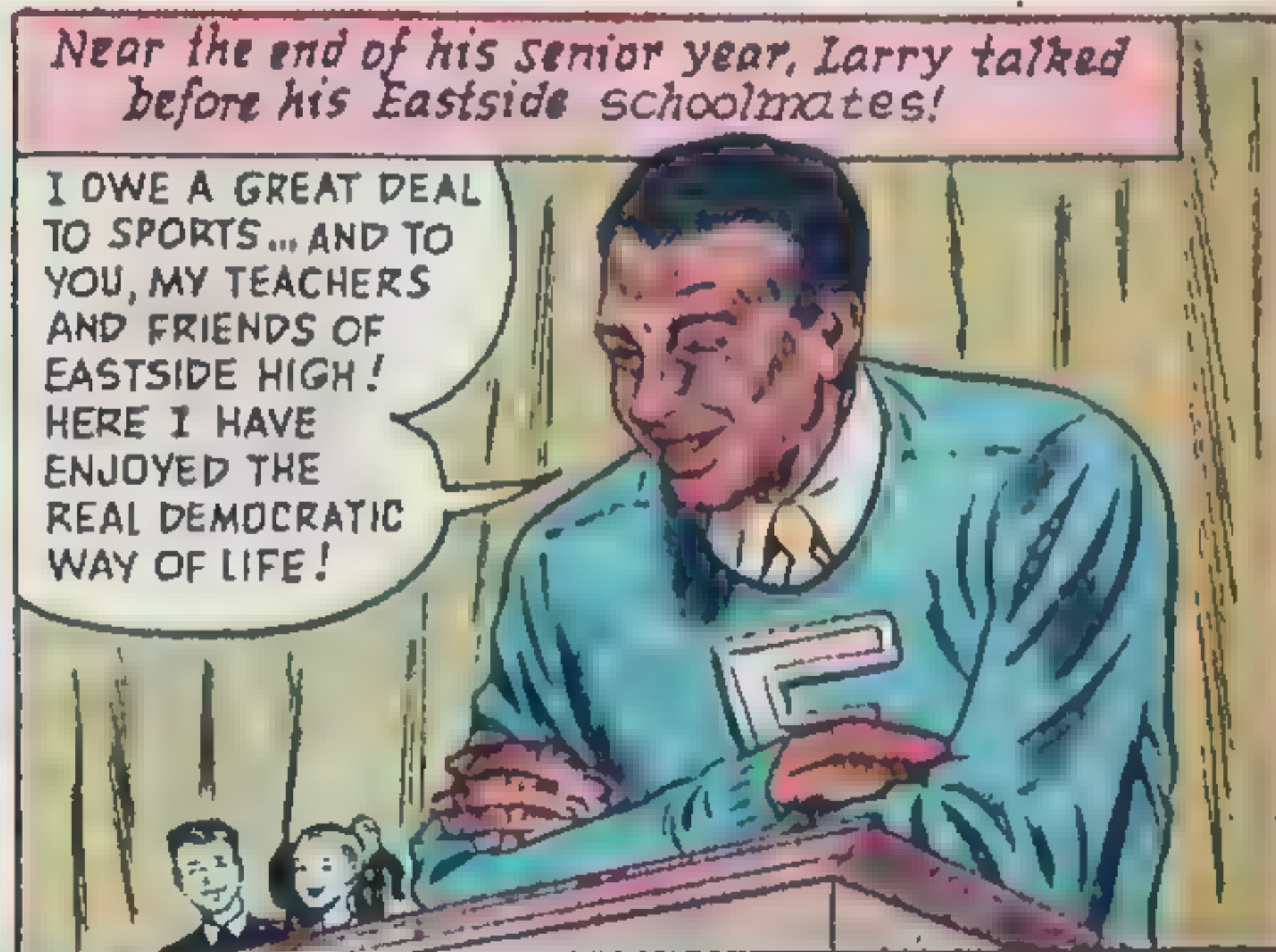
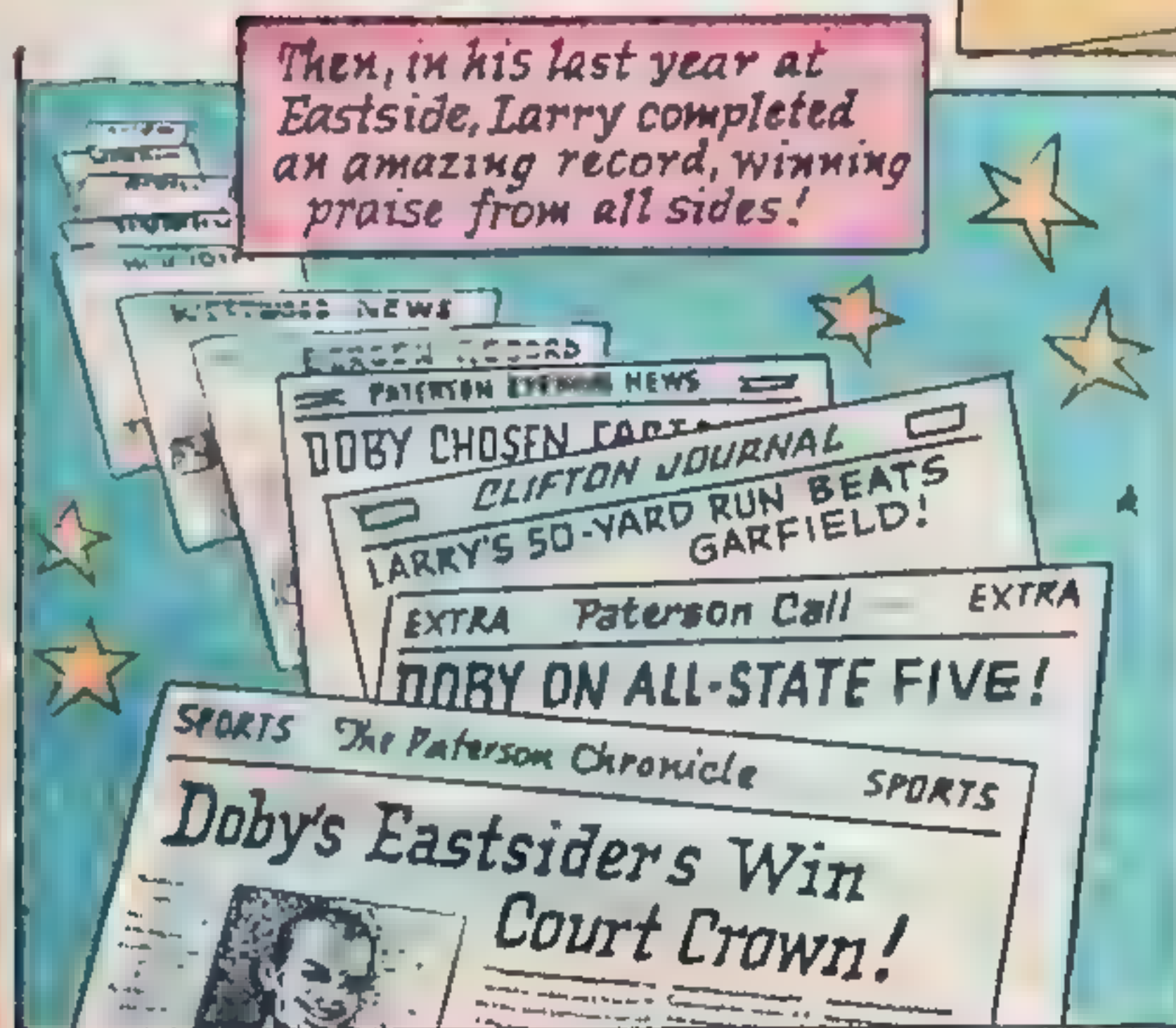
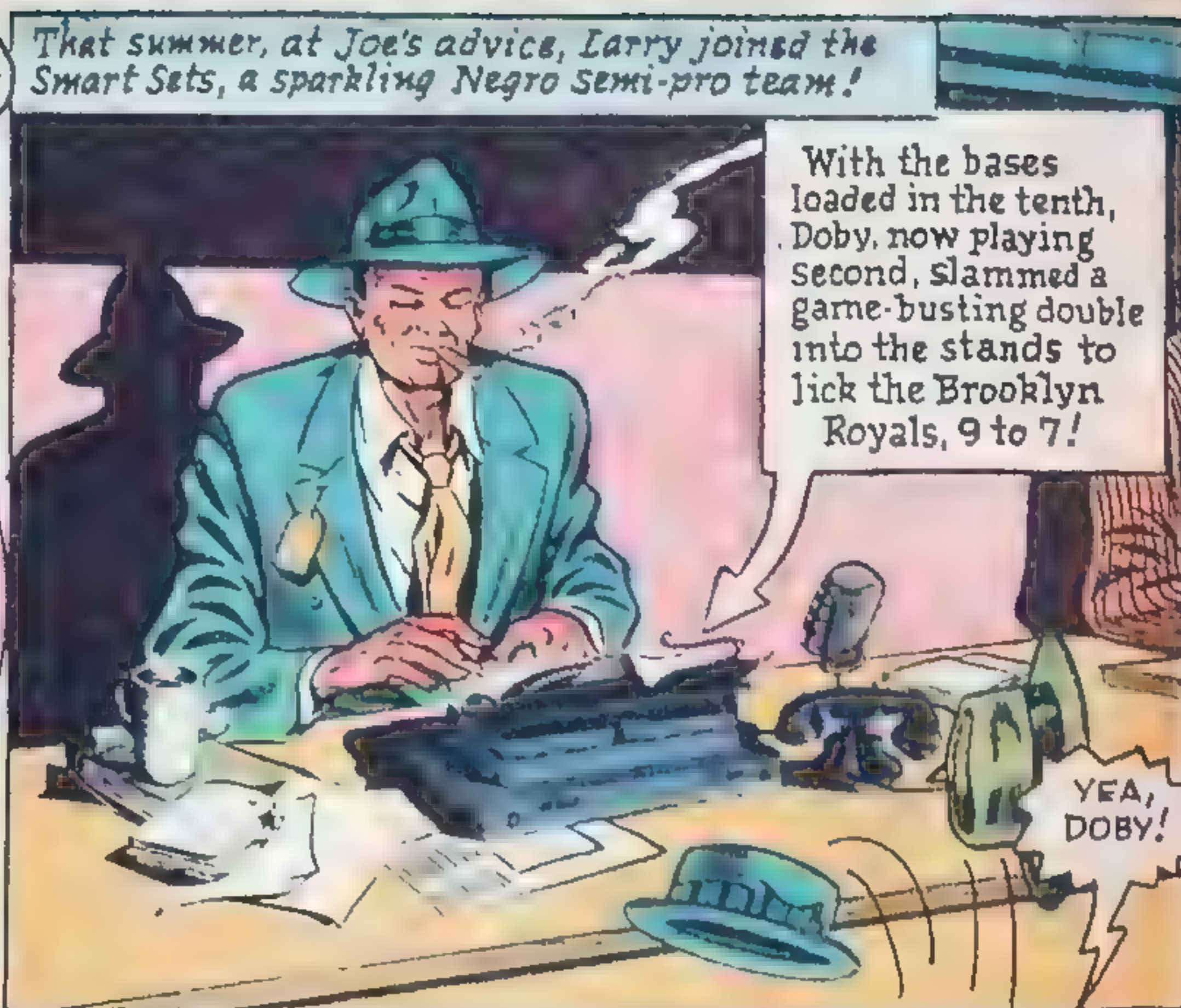


A few minutes after that stirring game...

I'M JOE GOOTTER, SPORTS EDITOR OF THE PATERSON NEWS, LARRY! HOW ABOUT A LITTLE CHAT?

YOU'VE WRITTEN WONDERFUL STORIES ABOUT ME, MR. GOOTTER! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU!





WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, JOE?

IT MEANS YOU'RE GOING TO COLLEGE, LARRY, IF YOU CAN PASS THE EXAMS!

TELEGRAM 9 A.M. JAN 13 1942

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

JOE GUTTER, PATERSON, N.J.

NOTIFY LARRY DOBY TO REPORT FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION MONDAY 9 A.M.

ADMISSIONS DEPT. LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Larry easily passed the entrance examination and was admitted to Long Island University on a physical education scholarship! That summer he again played semi-pro ball and was in fine shape when he reported for football practice in September! Clare Bee, famed LIU basketball coach, declared he would build his crack five around Larry, who was now a powerful six-footer!

On Larry's eighteenth birthday, Dec. 13, 1942...

GOING TO CARRY THE BALL AGAINST THE JAPS, LARRY?

YOU BET I AM!

LOCAL BOARD NO. 12 SELECTIVE SERVICE

E

OUZ

TNT

That evening, Larry and Helen went to a college dance!

I MAY BE GONE FOR A LONG TIME, HELEN!

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU FOREVER, LARRY!

Larry joined the Navy and was assigned to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station...

I'M HUNGRY!

MAKE MINE BEEF-STEAK!

YOU'LL TAKE BEANS AND LIKE IT, DOBY!

TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU CAN EAT!

Larry starred on the Great Lakes Negro Basketball Five!

DOBY MUST HAVE STEEL SPRINGS IN HIS LEGS! LOOK AT HIM DUNK IN THAT ONE!

Playing on an all-Negro nine against the Great Lakes team composed of big leaguers, Larry made three hits and stole two bases!

THAT DOBY SURE CAN BUNT!

After the game, Larry met Mickey Cochrane, Great Lakes manager and former Philadelphia Athletics and Detroit Tigers star catcher!

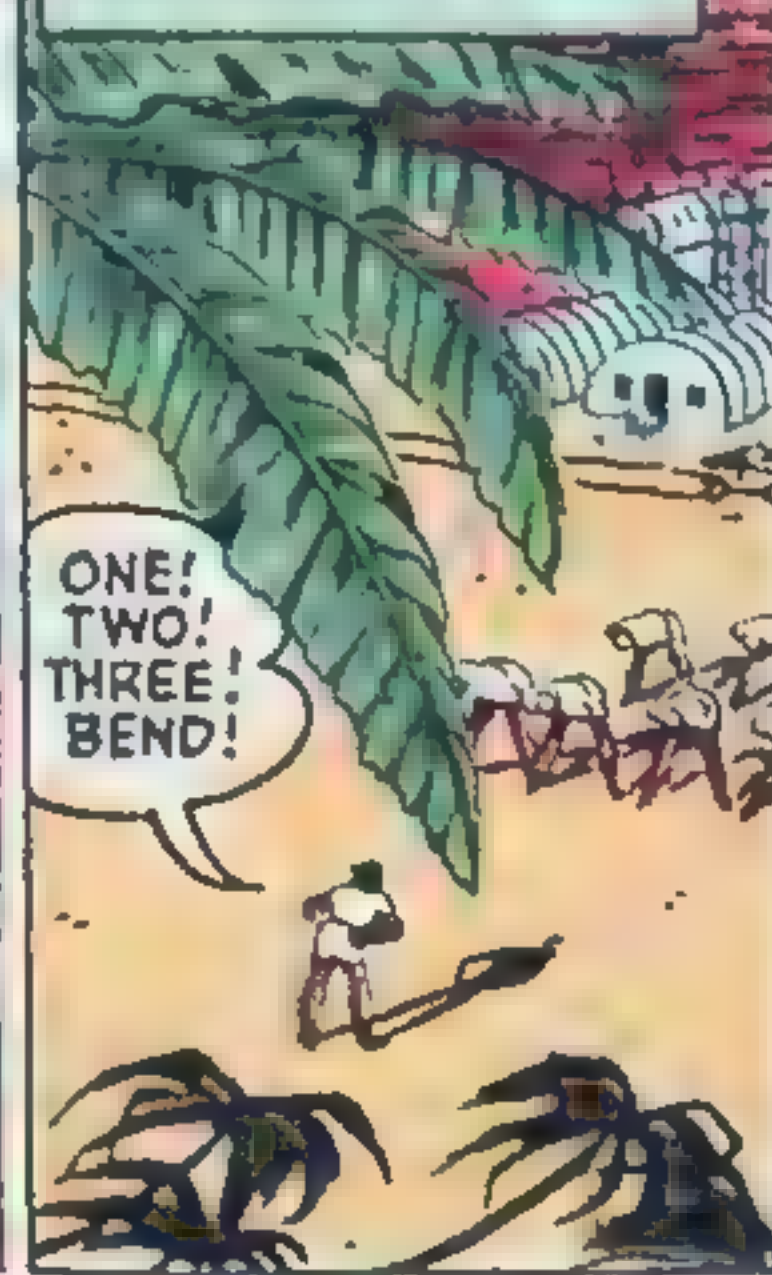
I LIKE YOUR POWER AND SPEED, DOBY! IF I WAS IN THE BIG LEAGUES NOW I'D WANT YOU ON MY TEAM!

WHY... ER... THANKS, SIR!



Later, Larry was shipped to distant Guam as a physical instructor!

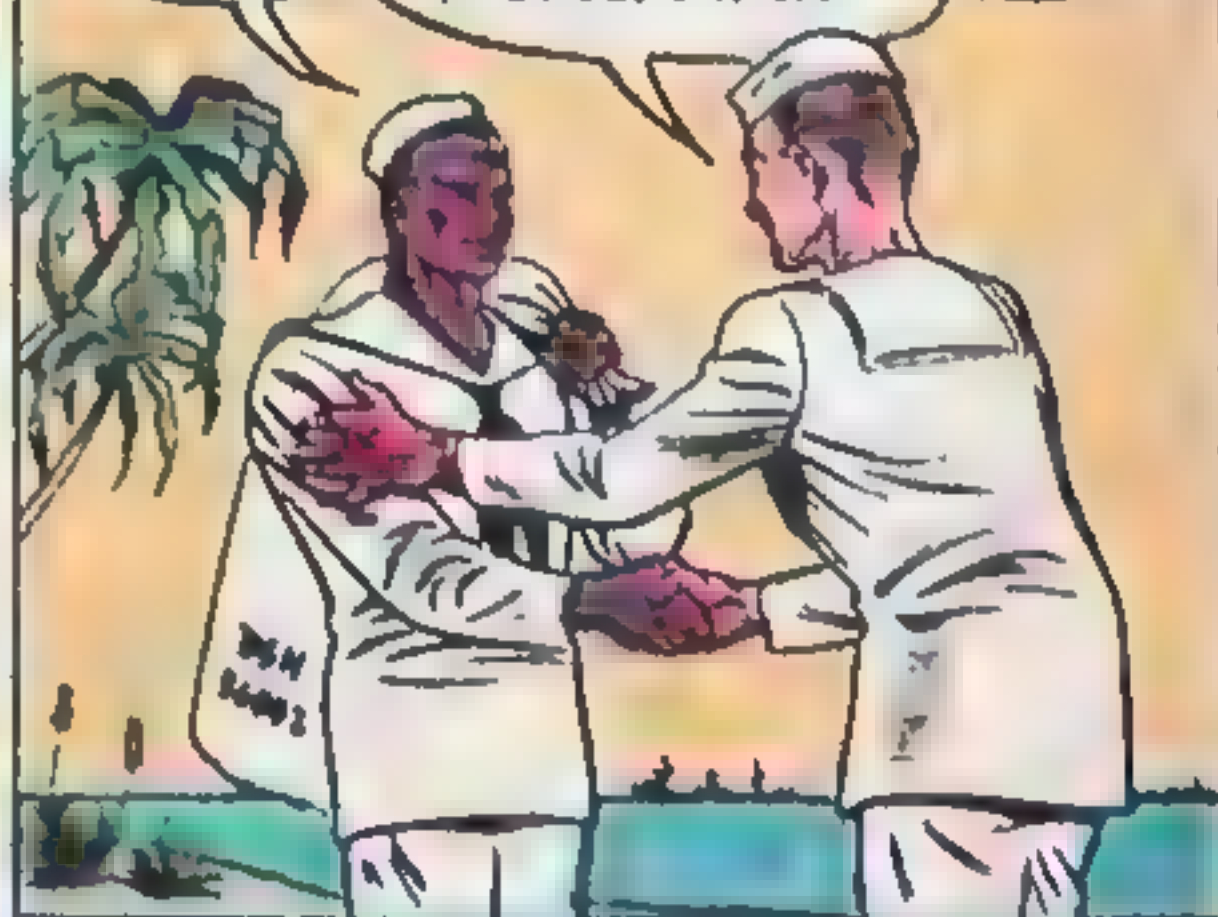
ONE!
TWO!
THREE!
BEND!



Transferred in 1945 to Ulithi, a tiny jungle island deep in the South Seas, Larry met another sailor!

MY NAME'S DOBY!

MINE'S VERNON! SAY, LARRY, I'VE HEARD YOU'RE QUITE A BALLPLAYER!

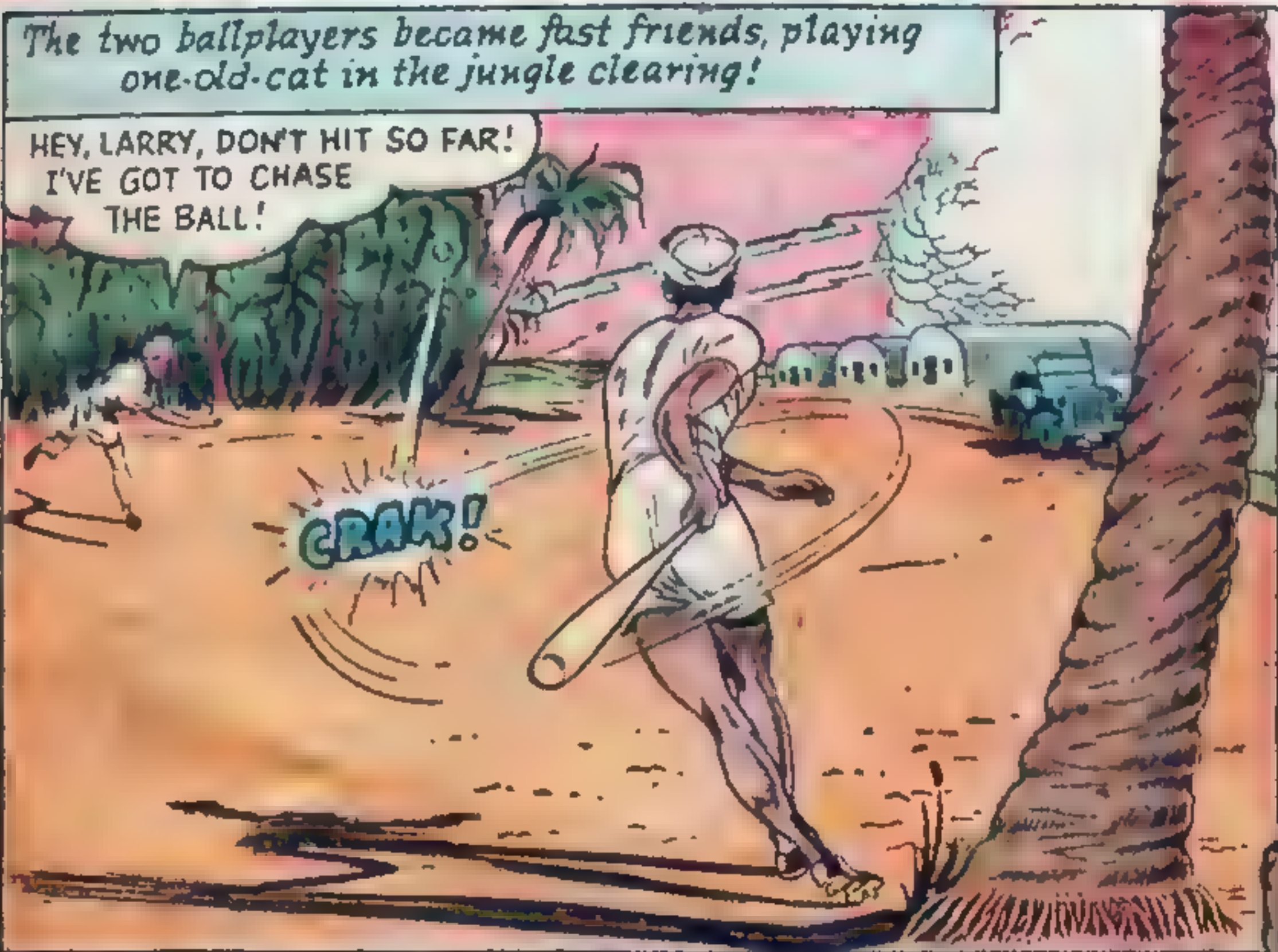


Larry's new buddy was Mickey Vernon, first baseman of the Washington Senators!

The two ballplayers became fast friends, playing one-old-cat in the jungle clearing!

HEY, LARRY, DON'T HIT SO FAR! I'VE GOT TO CHASE THE BALL!

CRACK!



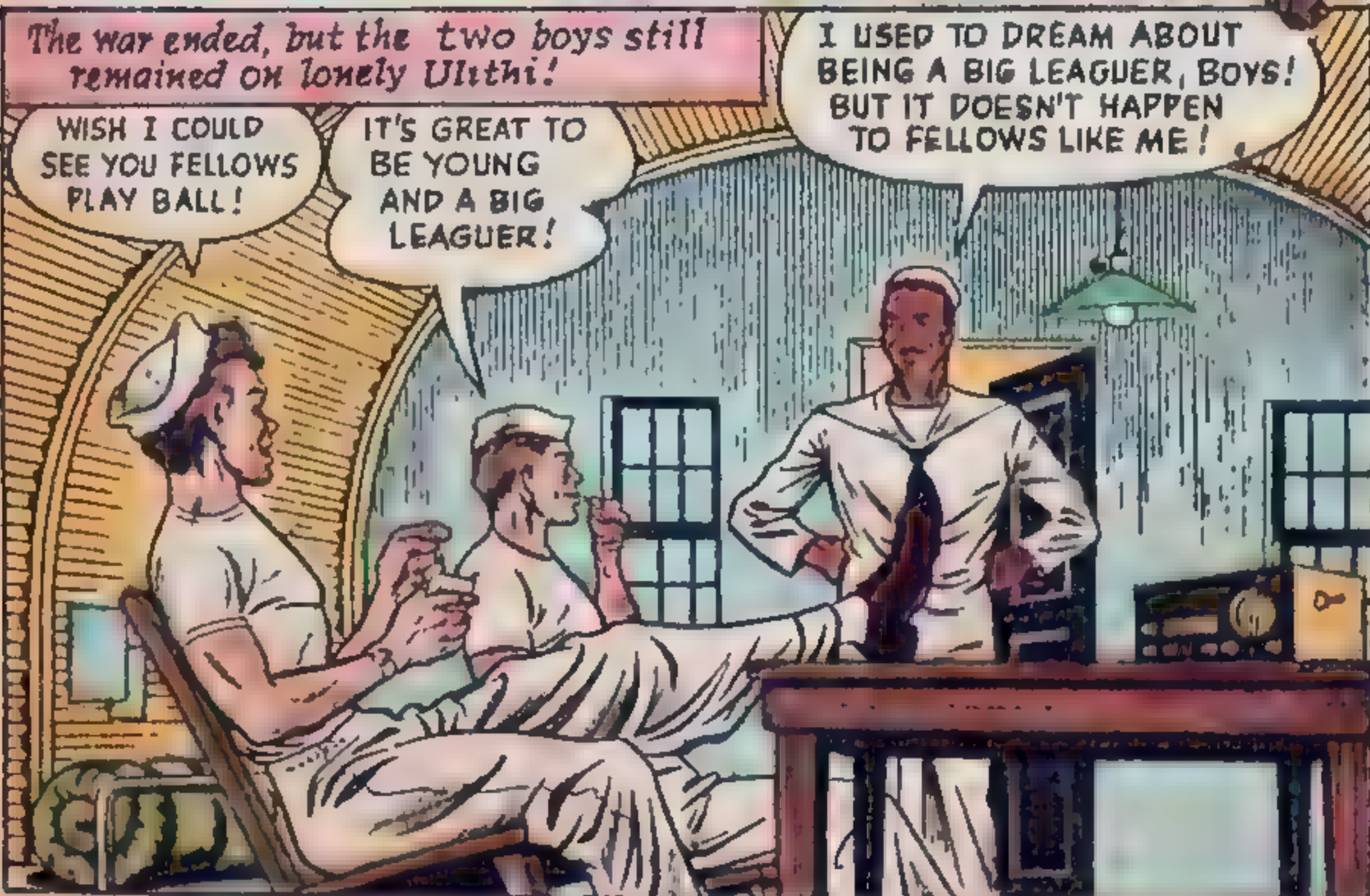
THANKS, PARDNER!

The war ended, but the two boys still remained on lonely Ulithi!

WISH I COULD SEE YOU FELLOWS PLAY BALL!

IT'S GREAT TO BE YOUNG AND A BIG LEAGUER!

I USED TO DREAM ABOUT BEING A BIG LEAGUER, BOYS! BUT IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO FELLOWS LIKE ME!



The radio music stopped! The announcer read a long news bulletin! Then suddenly...

HERE'S BIG SPORTS NEWS! THE BROOKLYN DODGERS HAVE SIGNED JACKIE ROBINSON, FIRST NEGRO IN ORGANIZED BASEBALL!

THAT'S GREAT NEWS FOR YOU, LARRY!

MY DREAM IS COMING TRUE! NOW MAYBE SOMEDAY I CAN BE A BIG LEAGUER, TOO!



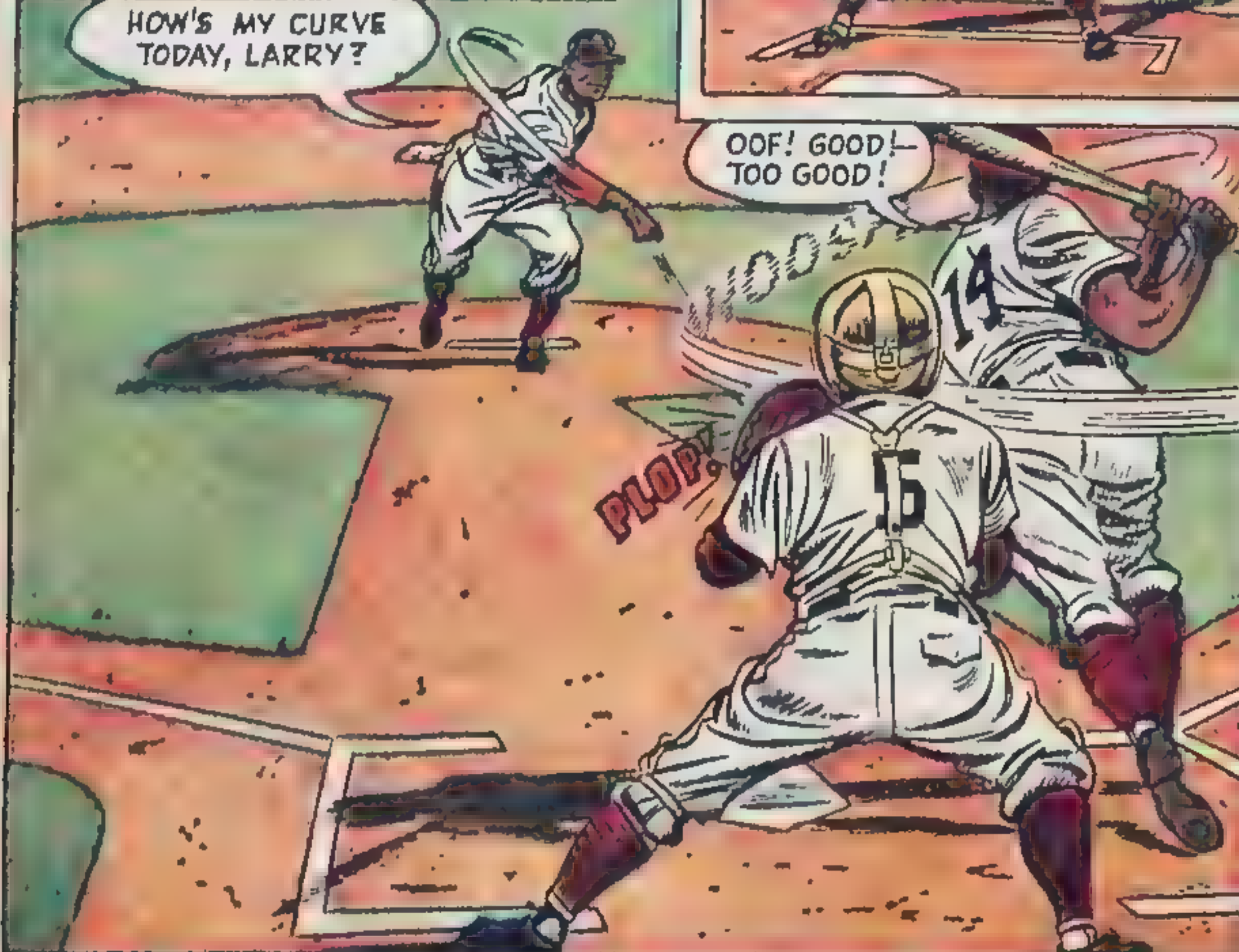
Larry was discharged from the Navy on Jan. 15, 1946! He was quickly signed by the Newark Eagles of the Negro National League! Among his new teammates at the Virginia training camp was Monte Irvin, today a New York Giant prospect!

Monte Irvin helped Larry correct his batting form!



In batting practice, Larry faced another teammate, the towering right hander, Don Newcombe!

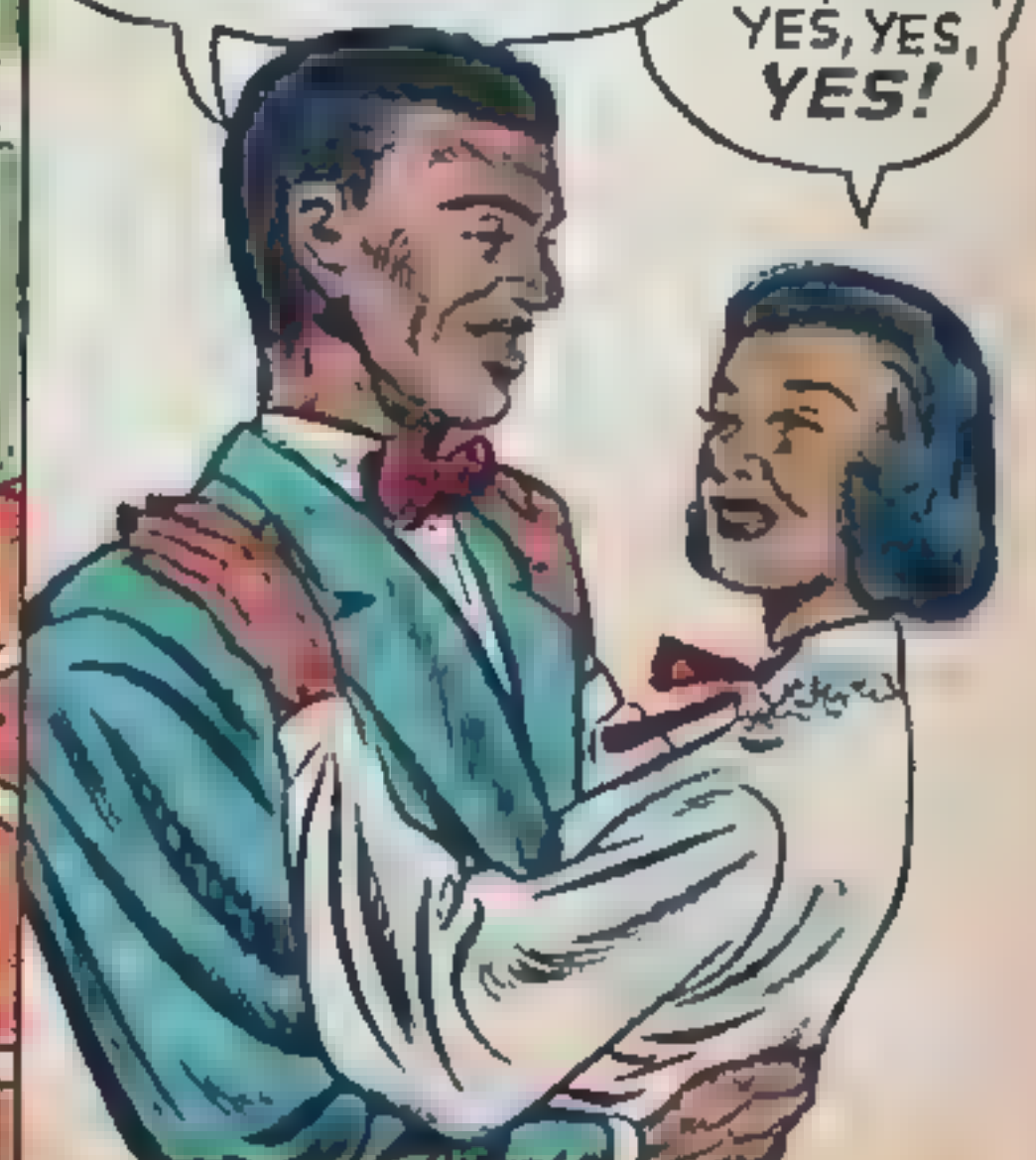
HOW'S MY CURVE TODAY, LARRY?



By August, Larry was batting over .400 for the Eagles... and 1,000 with Helen Curvy!

I GOT A RAISE, TODAY, HELEN! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

IT MEANS YES, LARRY, YES, YES, YES!



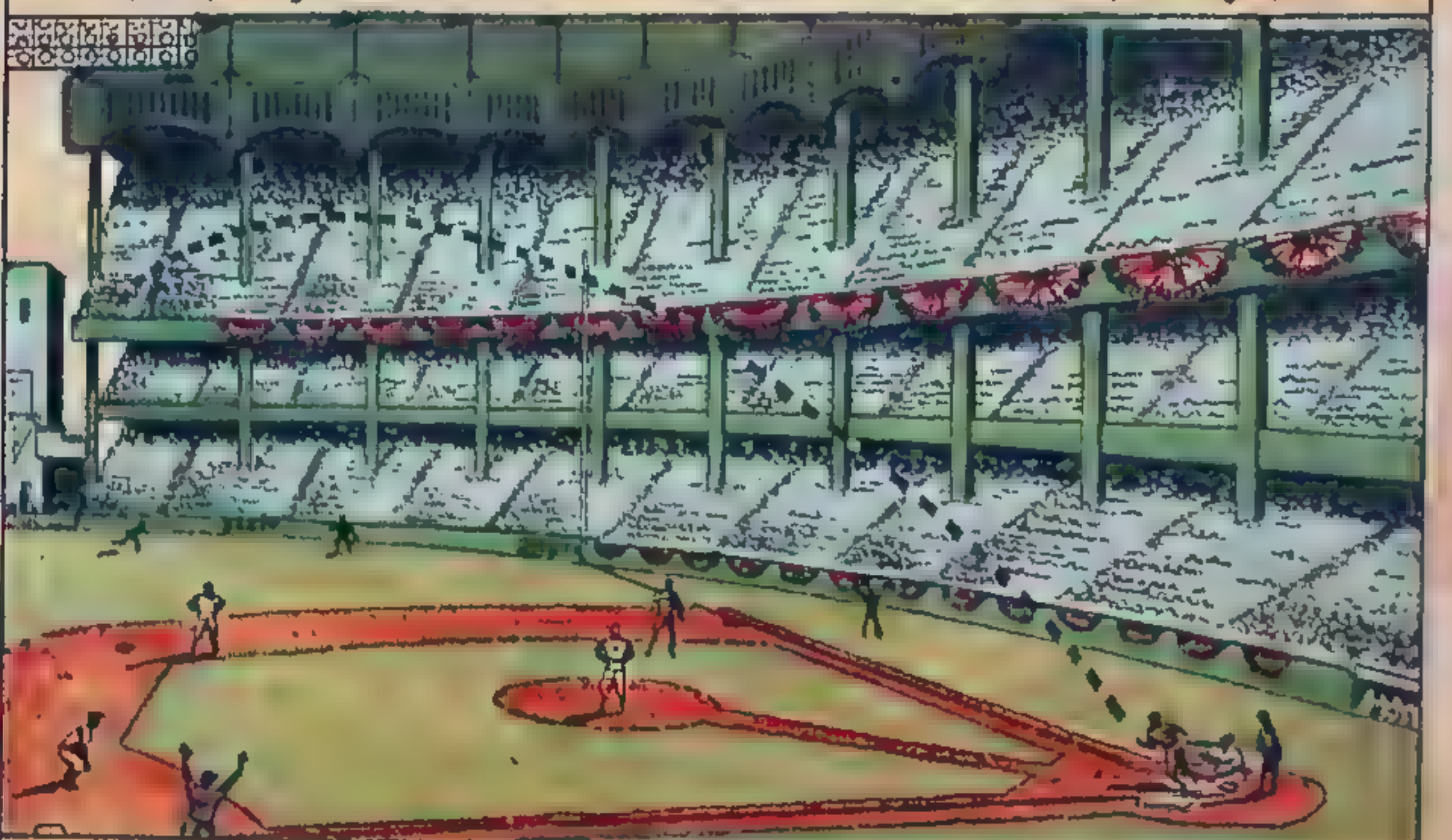
The young lovers were married the following Sunday!

MY CHILDREN!



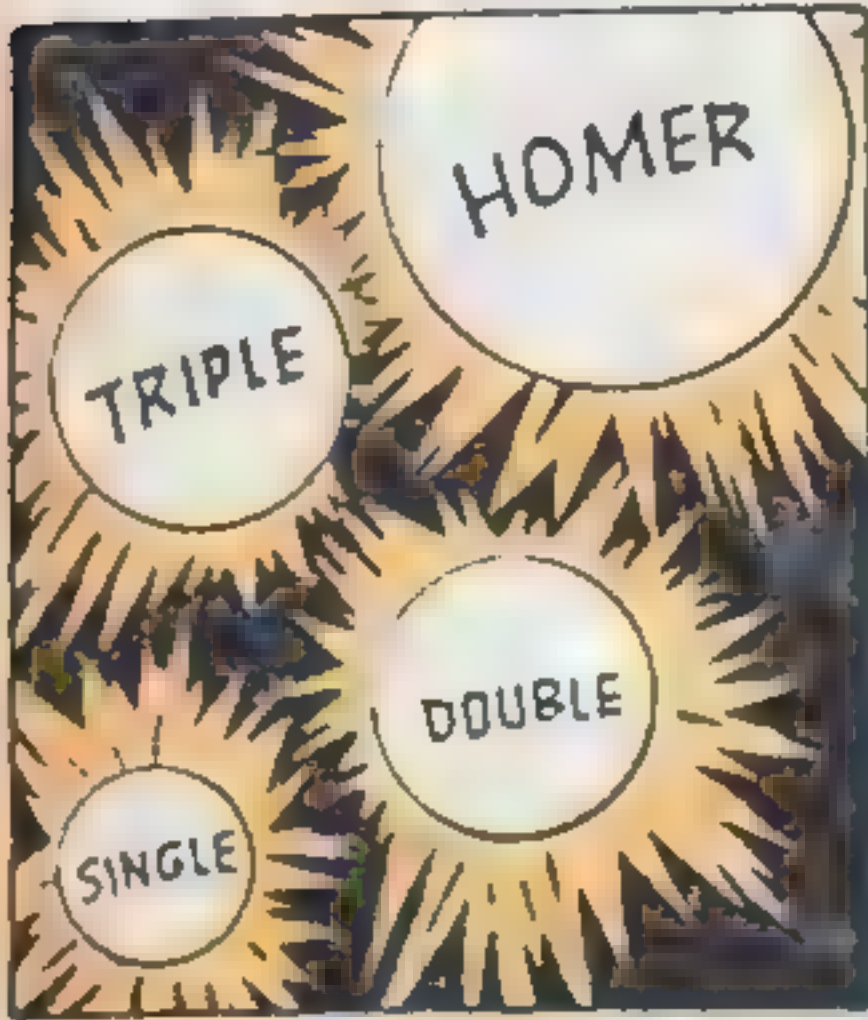
Before leaving on their honeymoon, Larry and Helen stopped off at the ball park where Larry celebrated with a homer, a triple and two singles!

Against the Homestead Grays at Yankee Stadium, Larry drove a 410-foot homer, eclipsing the distance record of Josh Gibson, heroic Negro king of swat!



Larry's 1946 batting average was .342 as the Eagles won the pennant and the Negro World Series from the power-laden Kansas City Monarchs!

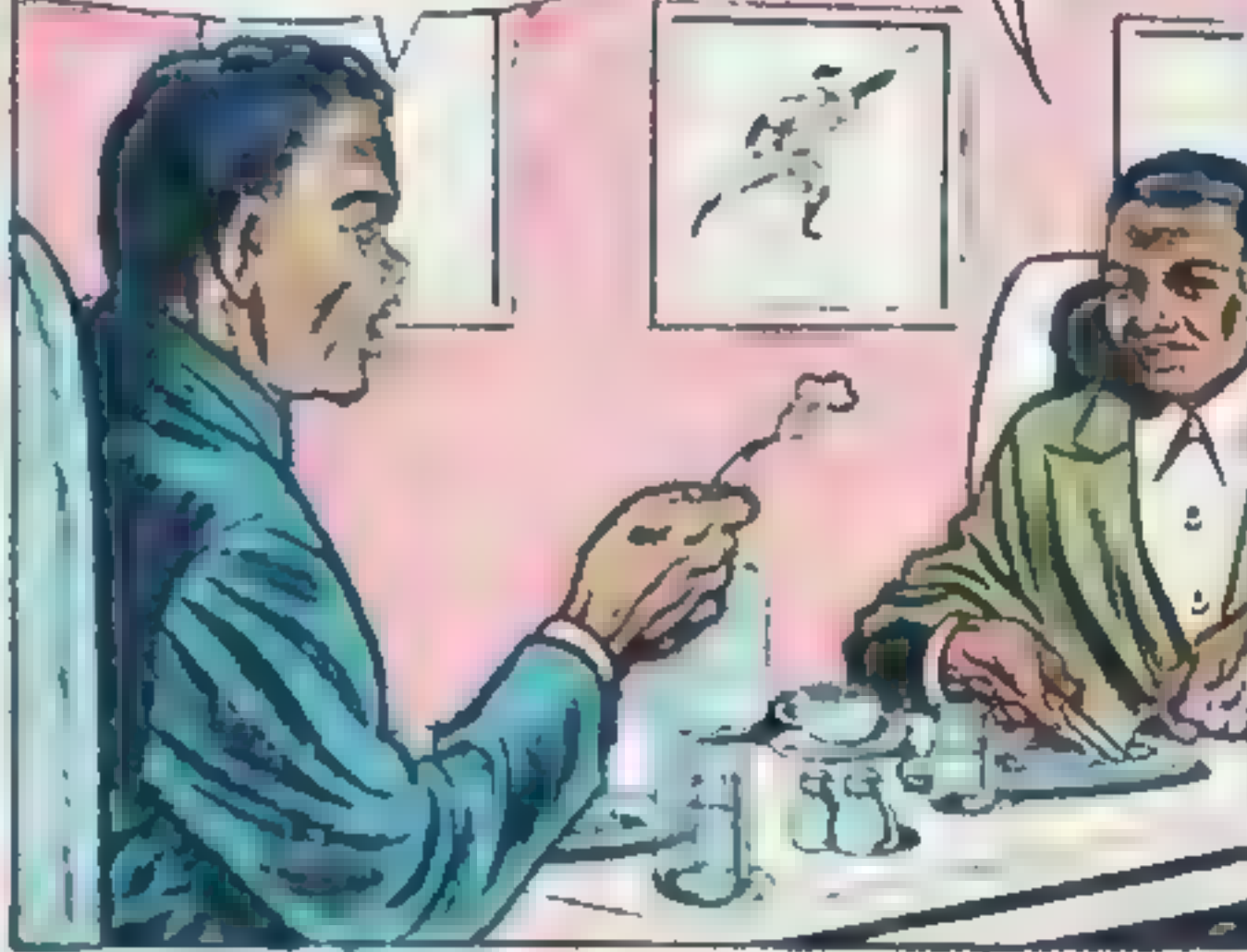
After playing winter ball in Puerto Rico, Larry rejoined the Newark Eagles! In May, 1947, in a game against the Baltimore Elite Giants, he hit for the cycle!



After a night game, Larry was visited by Roy Campanella, star catcher of the Montreal Royals!

I'LL BE ON THE DODGERS NEXT YEAR, LARRY! THEY COULD USE A SLUGGING OUTFIELDER LIKE YOU!

GOSH, I'D LOVE TO BE A DODGER LIKE YOU!



But later, Roy wrote his friend a letter!

THE DODGERS DON'T WANT ME! THAT MEANS I'LL NEVER BE IN THE MAJORS, HELEN!

DON'T BE DISCOURAGED, LARRY! KEEP HITTING .350 AND SOME OTHER CLUB WILL GRAB YOU SOME DAY SOON!

Dear Larry - August 10, '47
Just a note to tell you I found out the Dodgers have scouted you all season. They say you are not ready yet.
Roy Campanella



Buoyed by Helen's faith in him, Larry played brilliantly for the Eagles! By July first he had hit 14 homers, six more than his nearest rival! He led the league with a .408 average! That day he was called to the telephone...

MY NAME'S LOUIS JONES! MAY I SEE YOU TONIGHT ABOUT A BASEBALL PROPOSITION?

IF YOU WANT ME TO JUMP TO THE MEXICAN LEAGUE -- NOTHING DOING!



Larry sought the advice of his friend, Joe Gootter!

IS THIS FELLOW JONES PLAYING A JOKE ON ME, JOE?

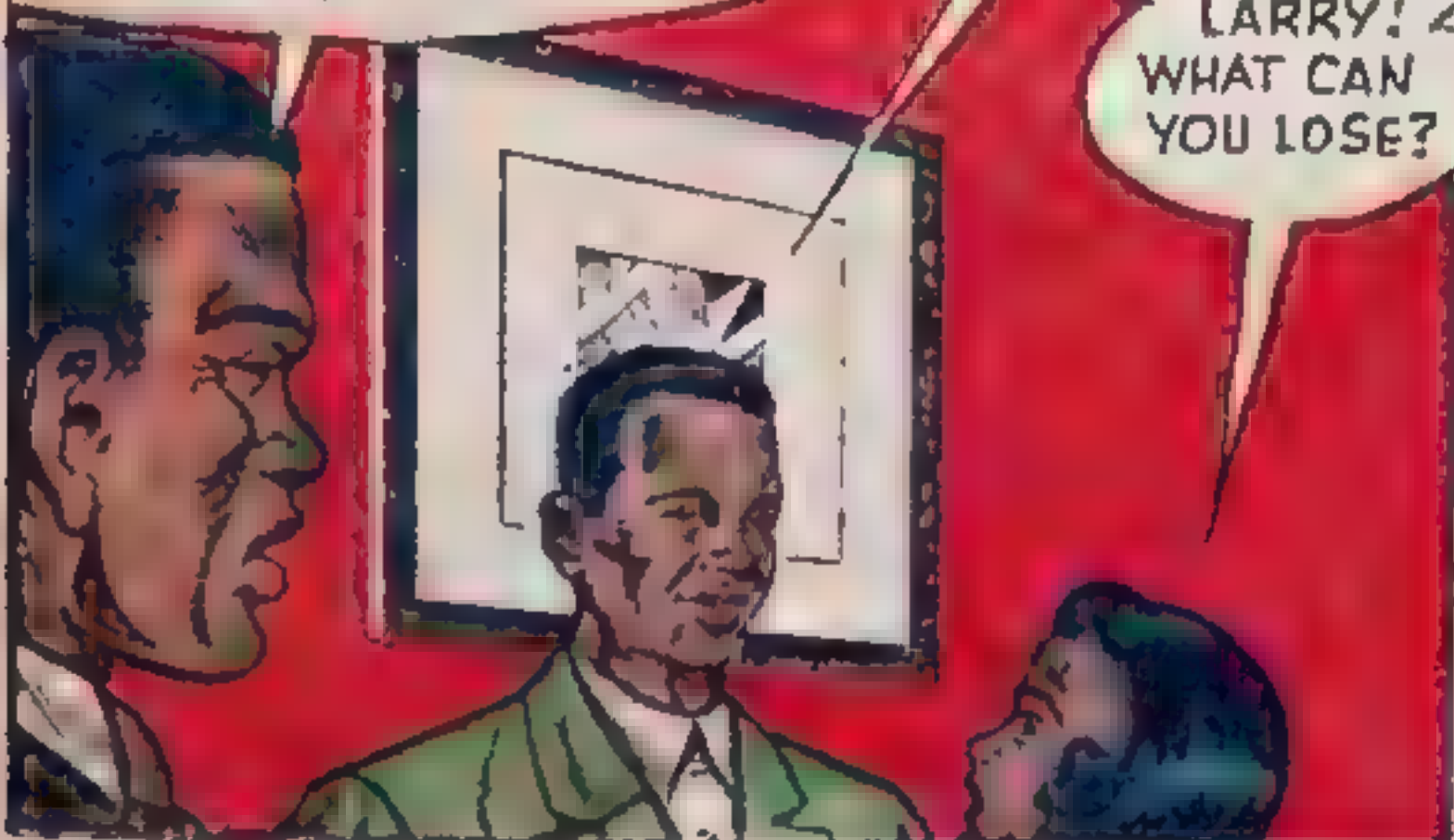
MAYBE HE IS... MAYBE HE ISN'T! WHY NOT SEE HIM -- AND FIND OUT?



I'M BOUND TO SECRECY, LARRY, UNTIL YOU MEET MY BOSS FACE TO FACE! I BOUGHT YOU A ROUND TRIP TO CLEVELAND! WILL YOU TAKE A CHANCE AND GO THERE WITH ME?

WHAT SHALL I DO, HELEN?

TAKE THE CHANCE, LARRY! WHAT CAN YOU LOSE?

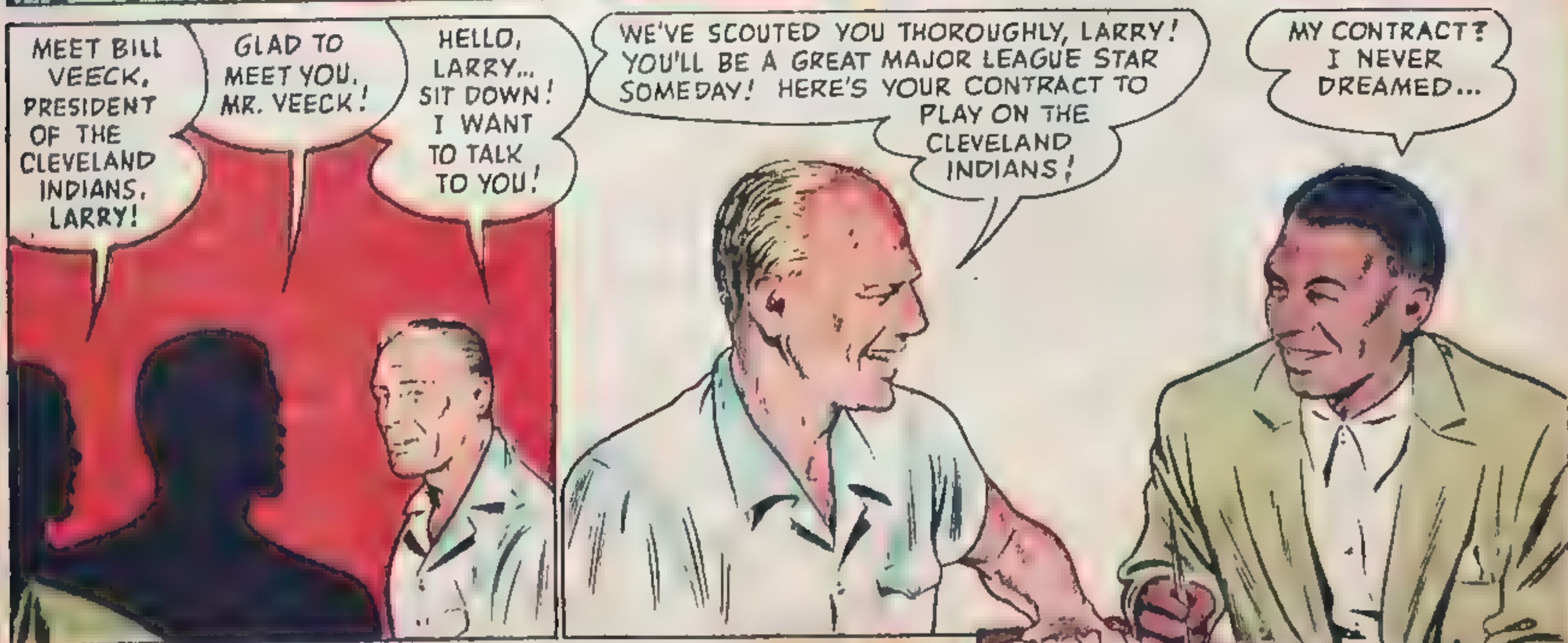
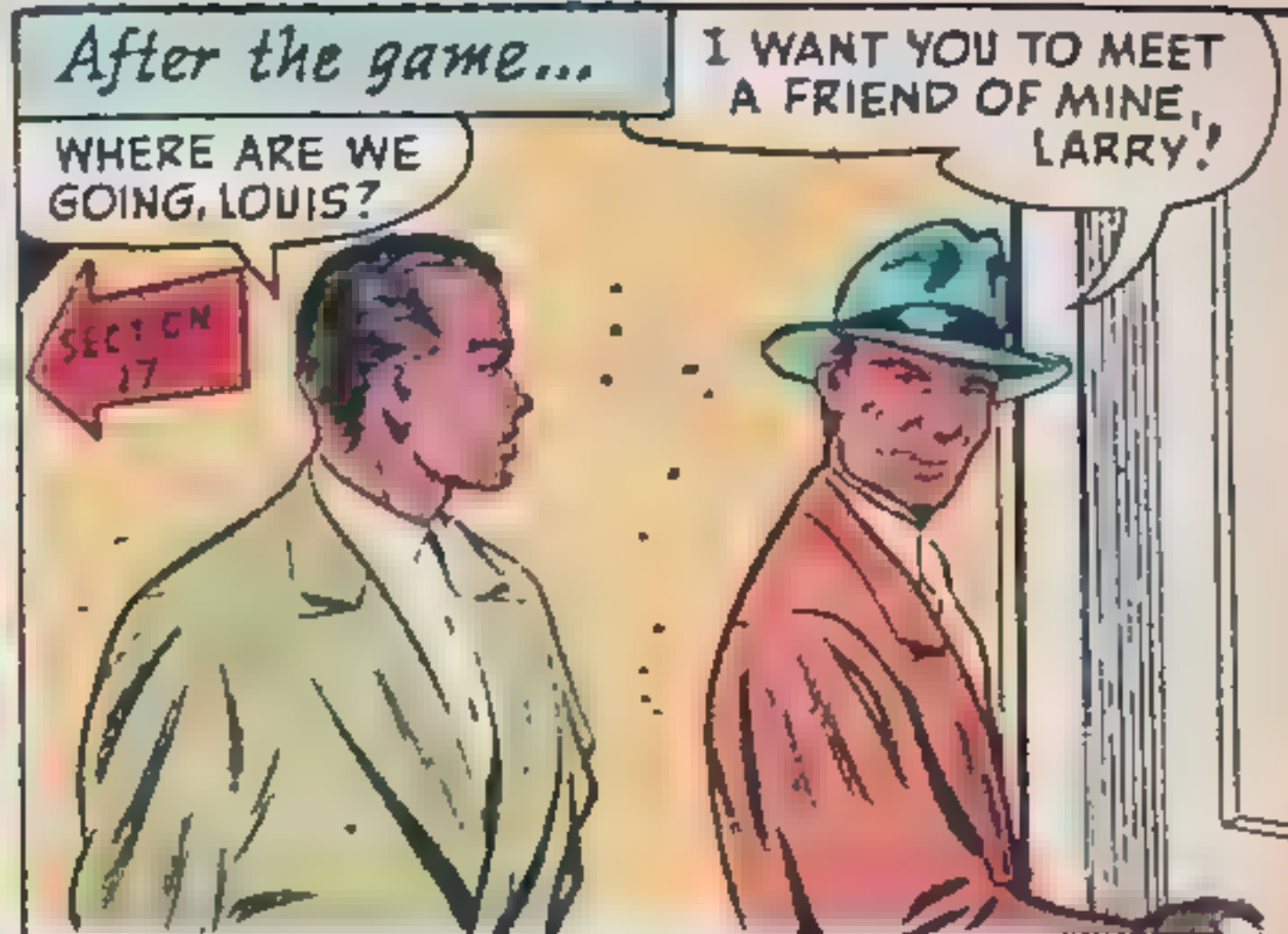
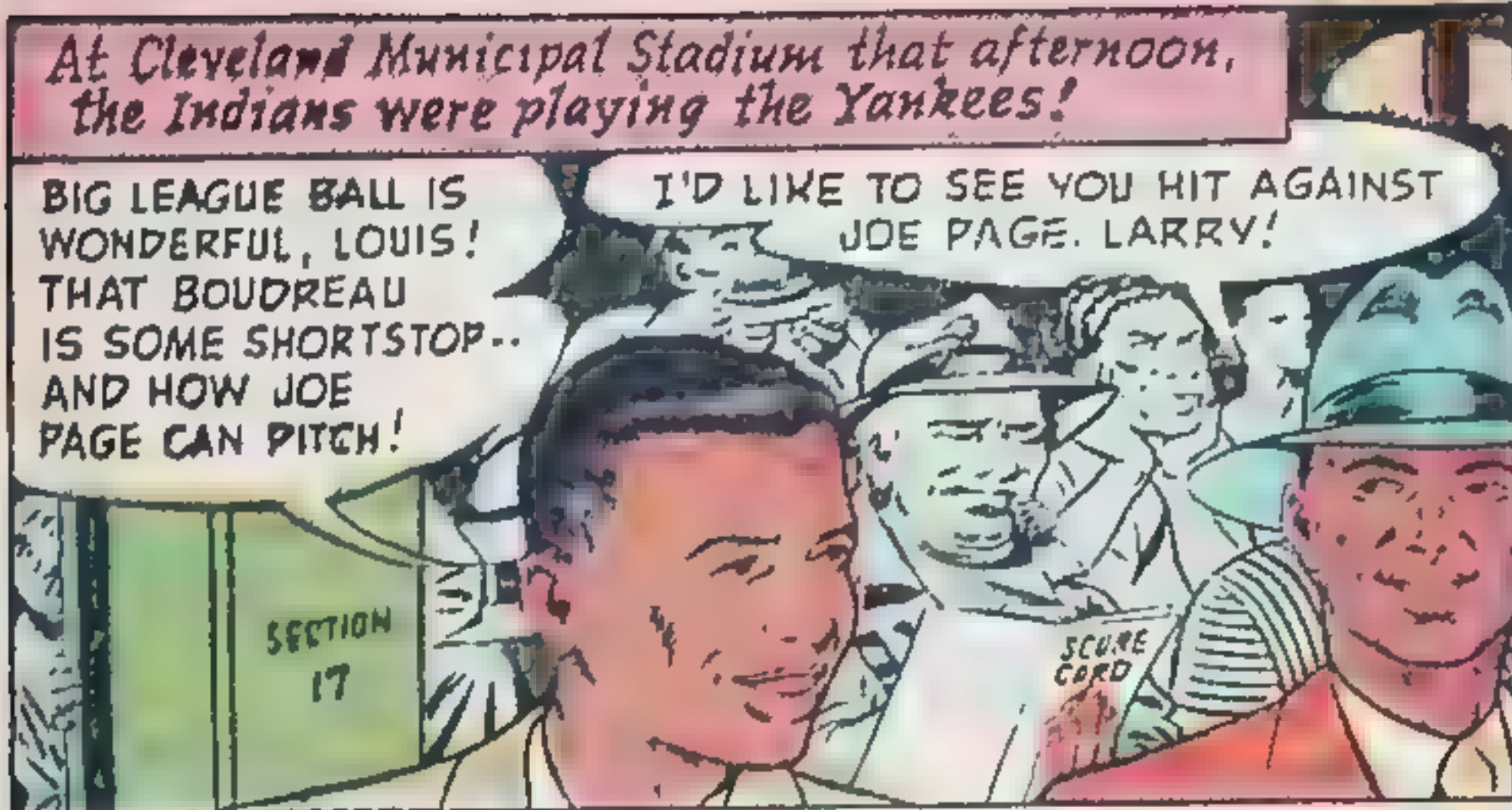


Three days later, Larry and Louis registered in a Cleveland hotel!

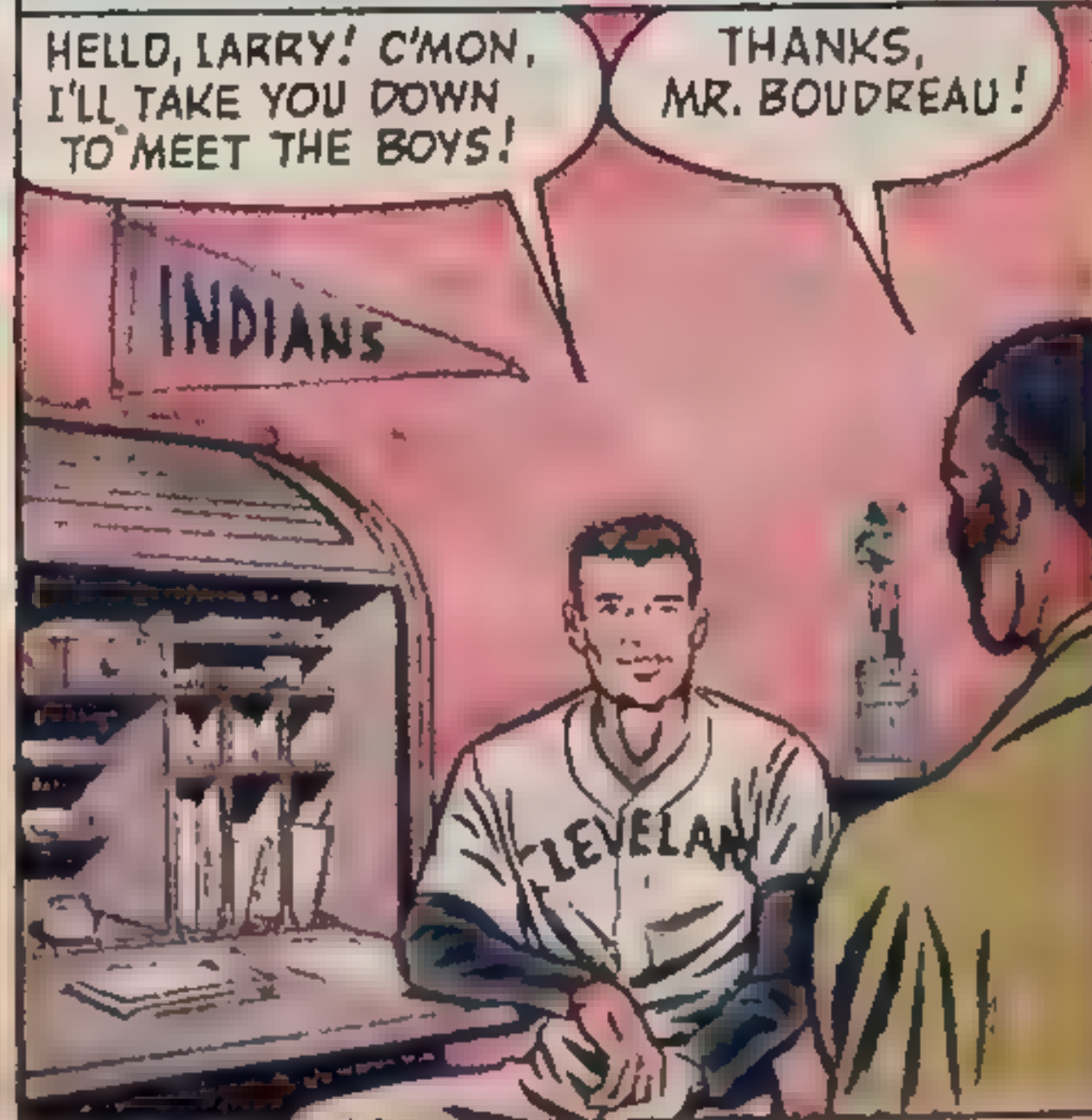
WE CAN'T SEE MY BOSS UNTIL LATER TODAY, LARRY! LET'S EAT LUNCH AND GO TO THE BALL GAME!

SWELL!... I'D LIKE TO SEE THE INDIANS PLAY, LOUIS!

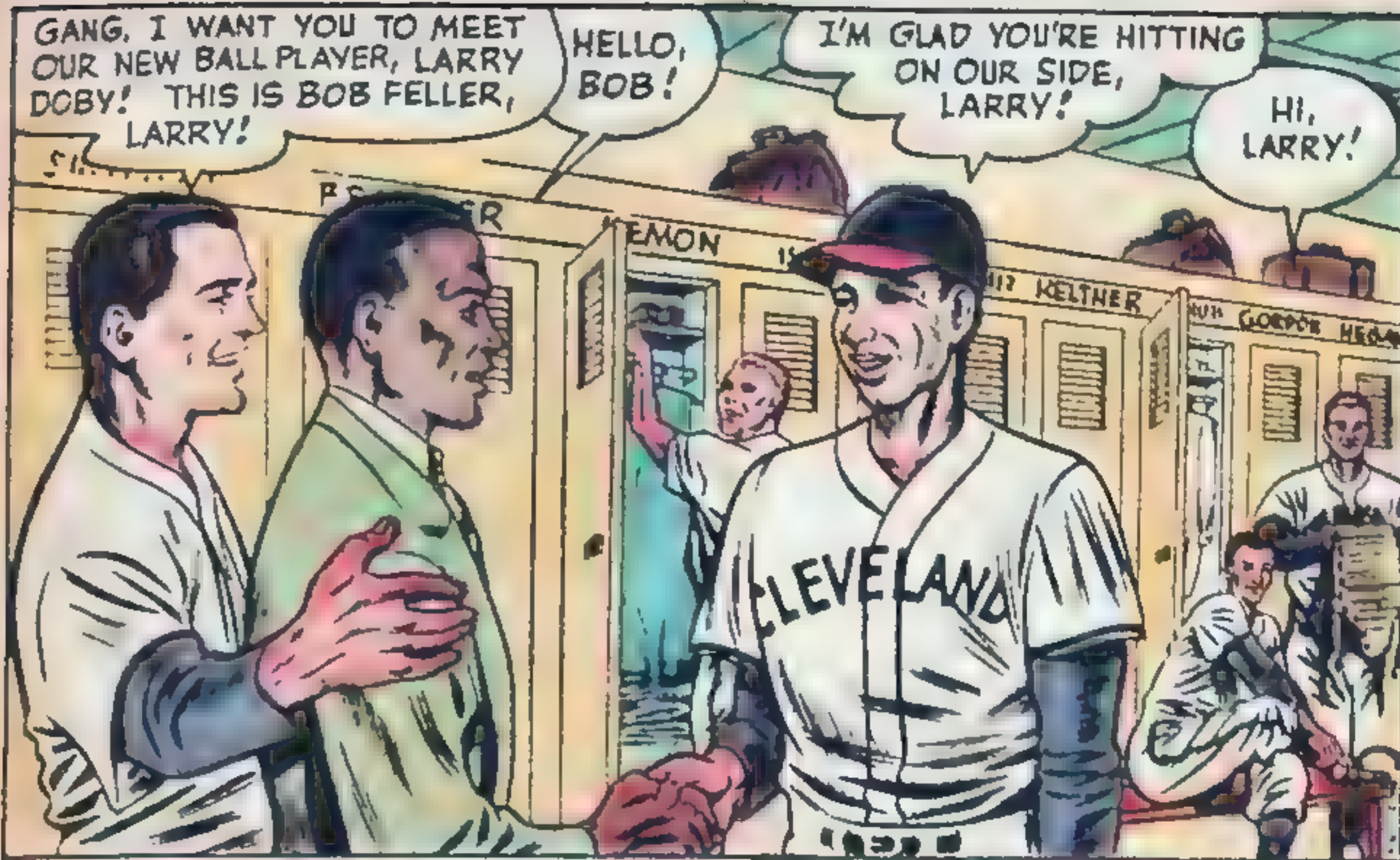




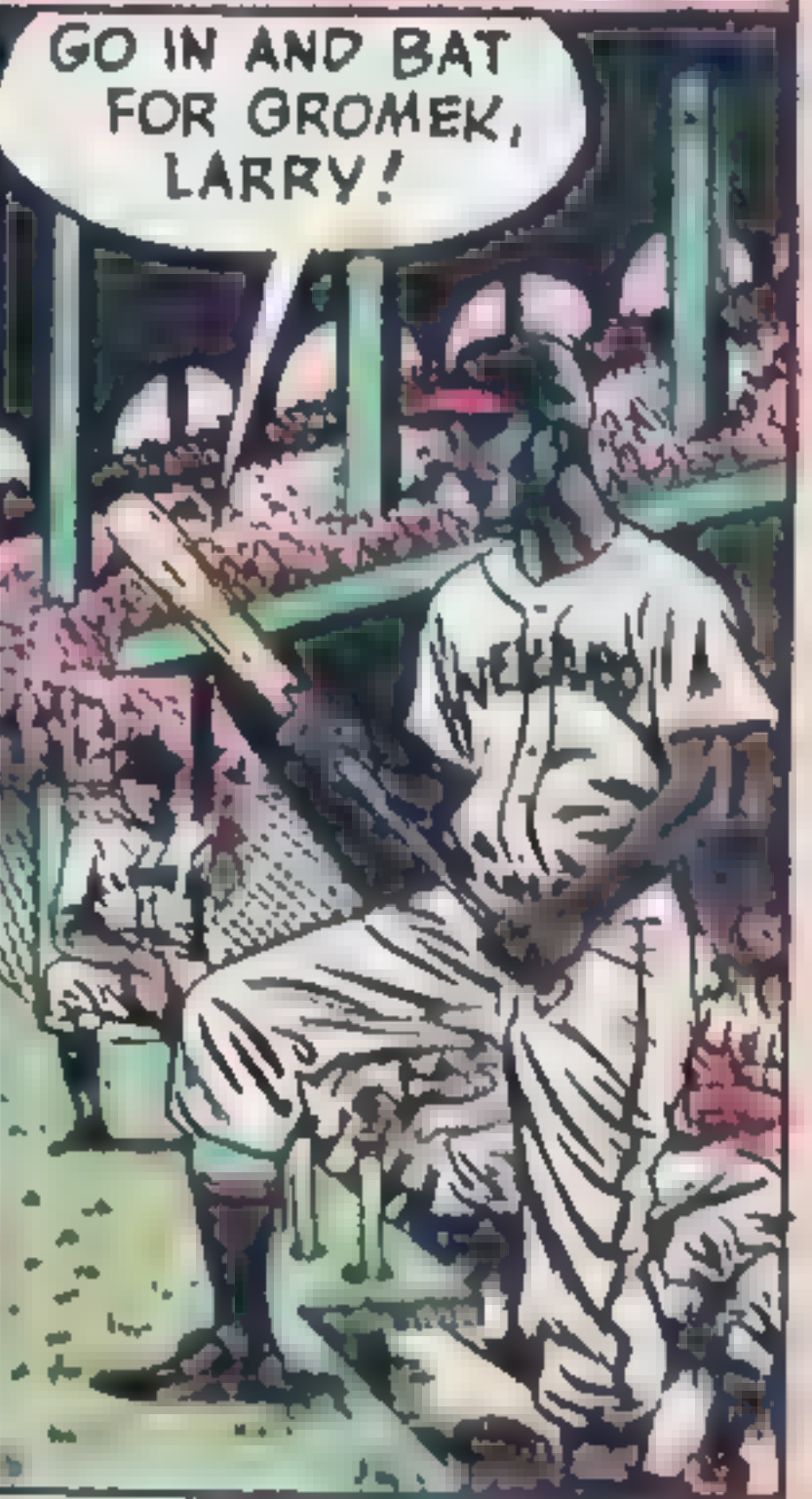
Larry still was in a daze as he went with Veeck to the Indians' clubhouse! He suddenly realized he was the first Negro player in the American League! How would his new teammates greet him? His knees shook as he entered Manager Boudreau's office!



LARRY DOBY

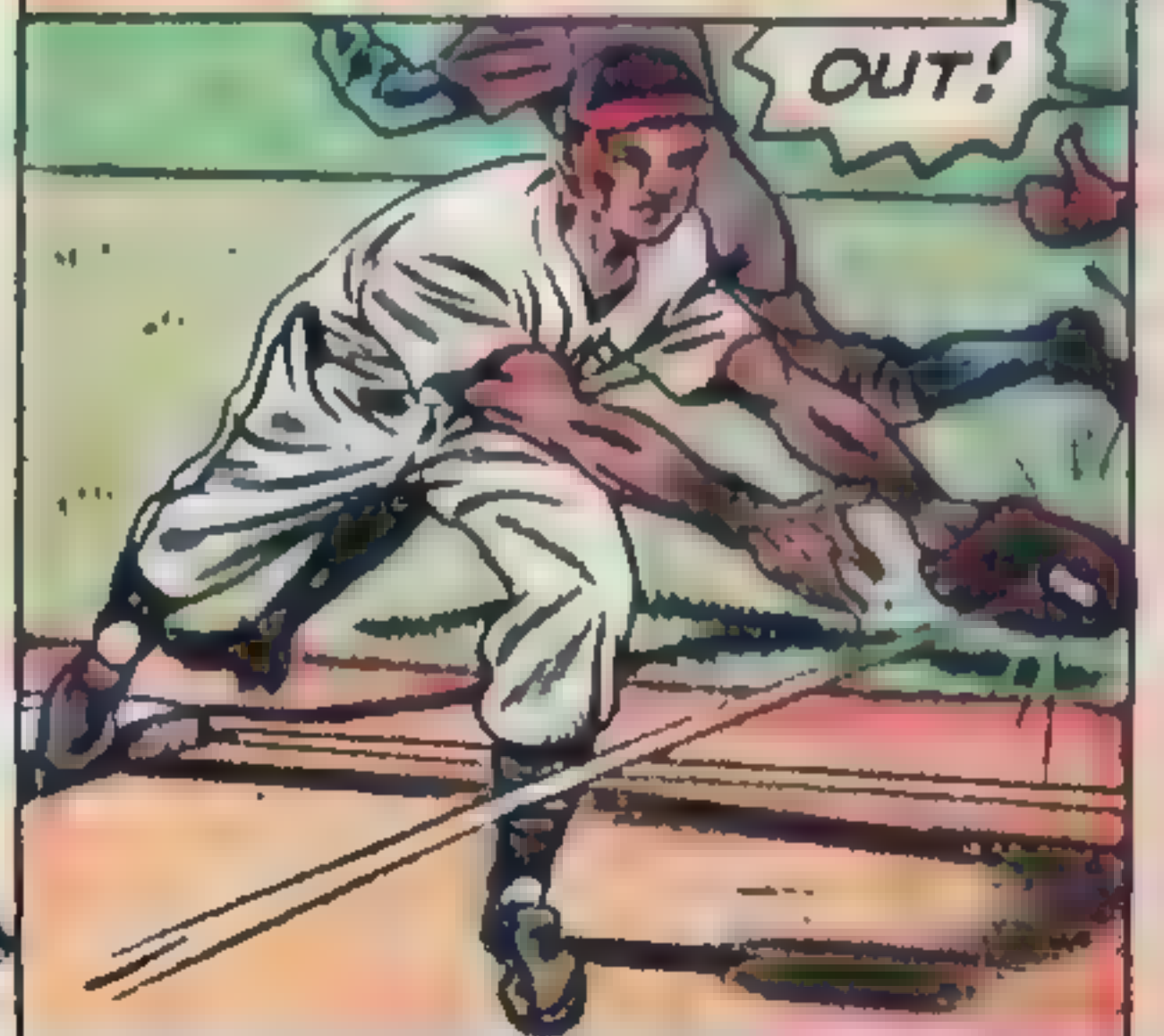


Larry's first major league appearance was as pinch hitter against Chicago!



Facing southpaw Ed Lopat, Larry nervously watched two strikes whiz by, then swung viciously at the third pitch!

Larry played first base in a game against the St. Louis Browns!



Larry made his first hit in that game, but struck out three times!



Larry played a few games at shortstop and at second base...

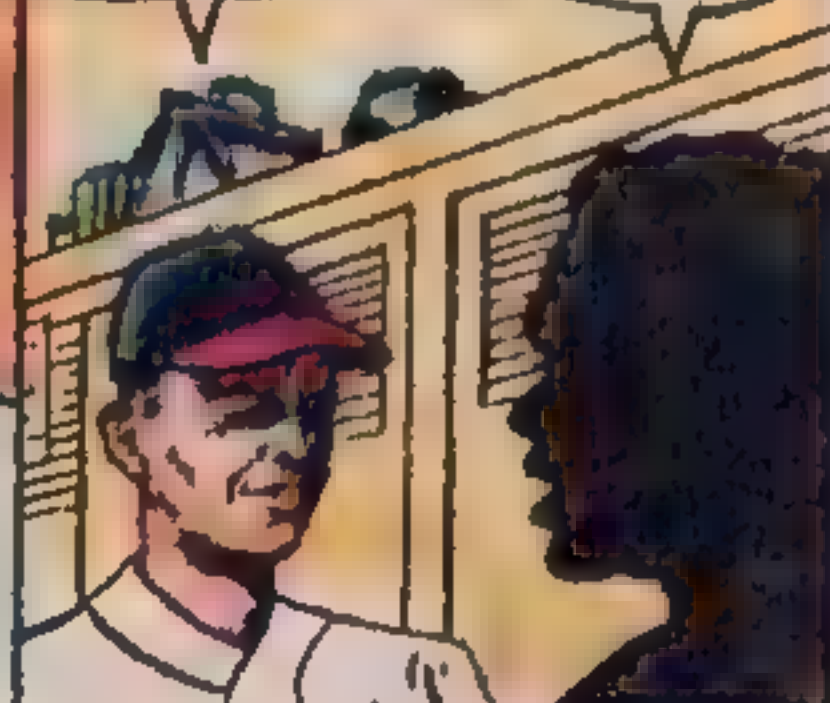
After that last 1947 game, Coach Bill McKechnie came to Larry's locker!

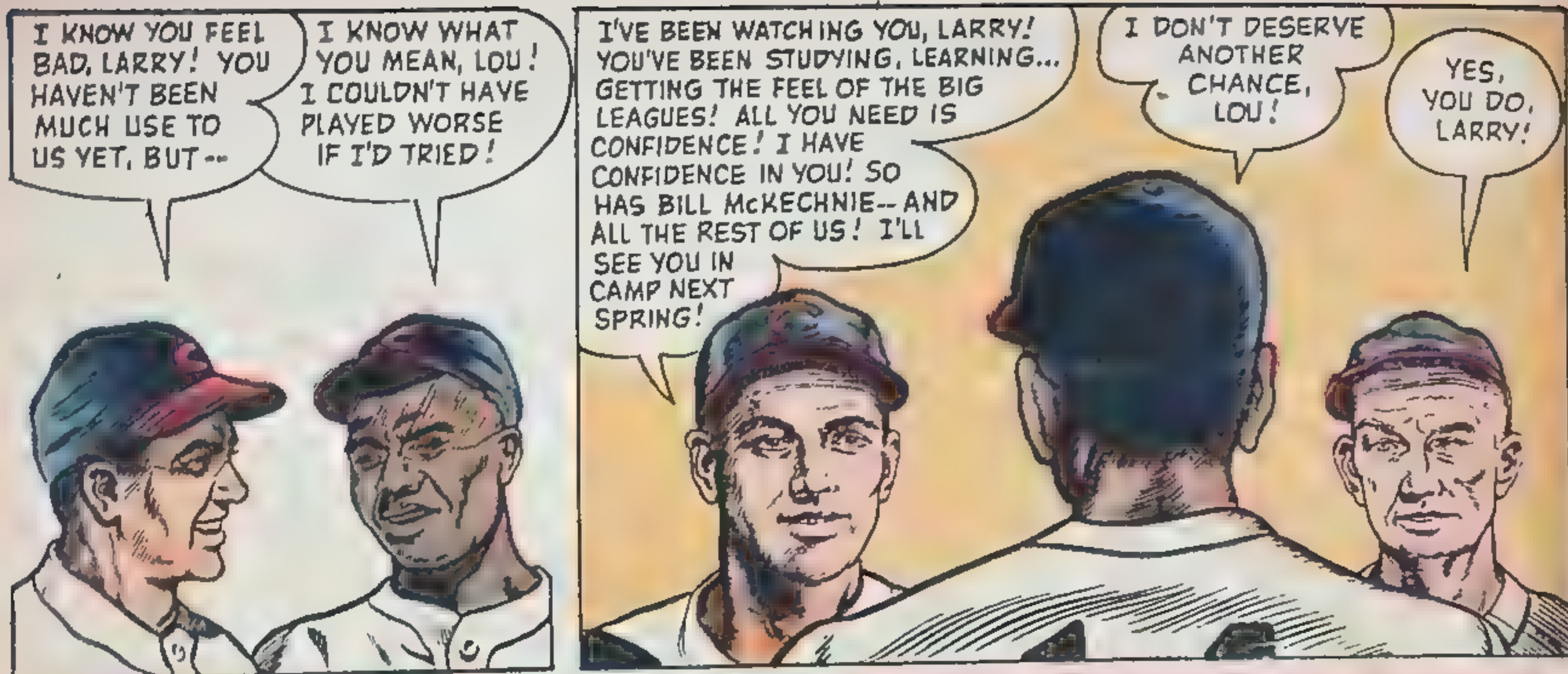
LOU BOUDREAU WANTS TO SEE YOU, LARRY!

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, BILL!

Depressed by his miserable showing, Larry feared the worst! Would Boudreau tell him he wasn't ready for the majors? Would he be sent to the minors--or--released outright? How would he explain his terrible failure to Helen, to Joe, to his Paterson friends?

He fielded well enough, but could not overcome the batting jitters! Larry's final average was only .156--five hits in thirty-two times at bat!





Late in February, 1948, Larry departed for Cleveland's training camp at Tucson, Arizona! On the train he met Coach Bill McKechnie...

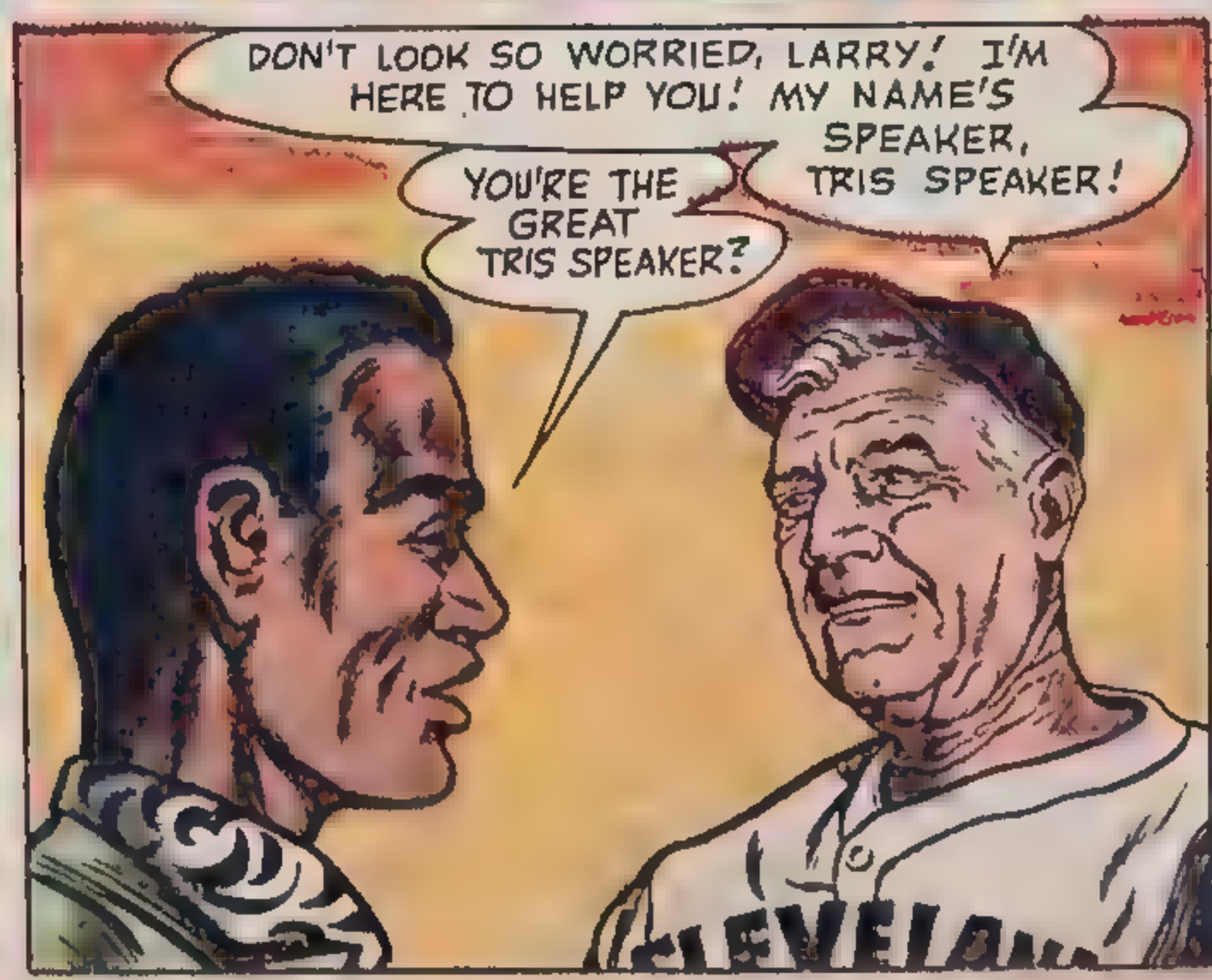
Encouraged by Lou's wise advice, Larry traveled home! During the winter he read every book on baseball, studying hard and playing basketball to keep in tip-top shape!



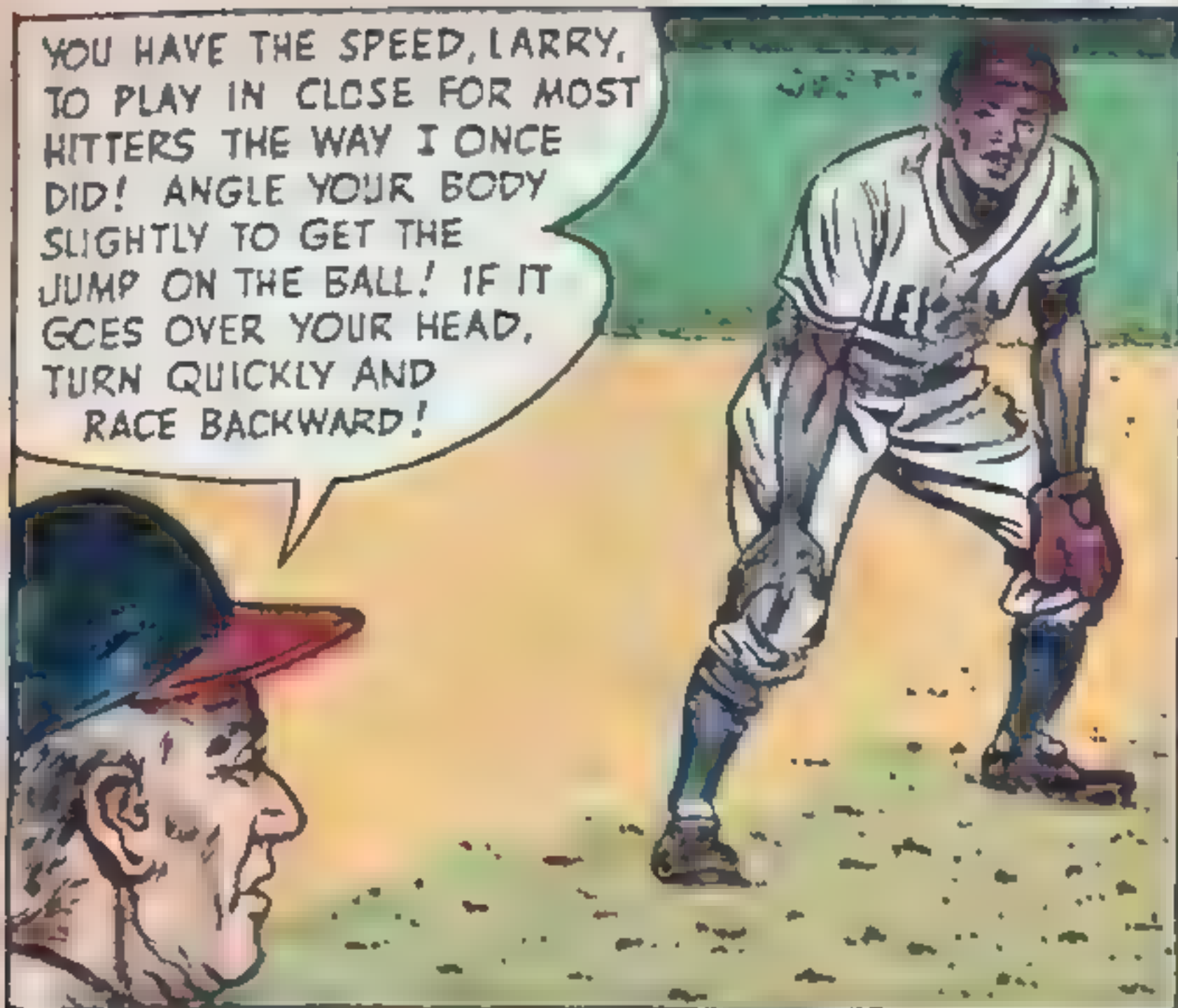
EIGHT OUTFIELDERS? I HAVEN'T A CHANCE TO MAKE THE TEAM!

THE FOLLOWING OUTFIELDERS WILL REPORT AT 10 A.M.

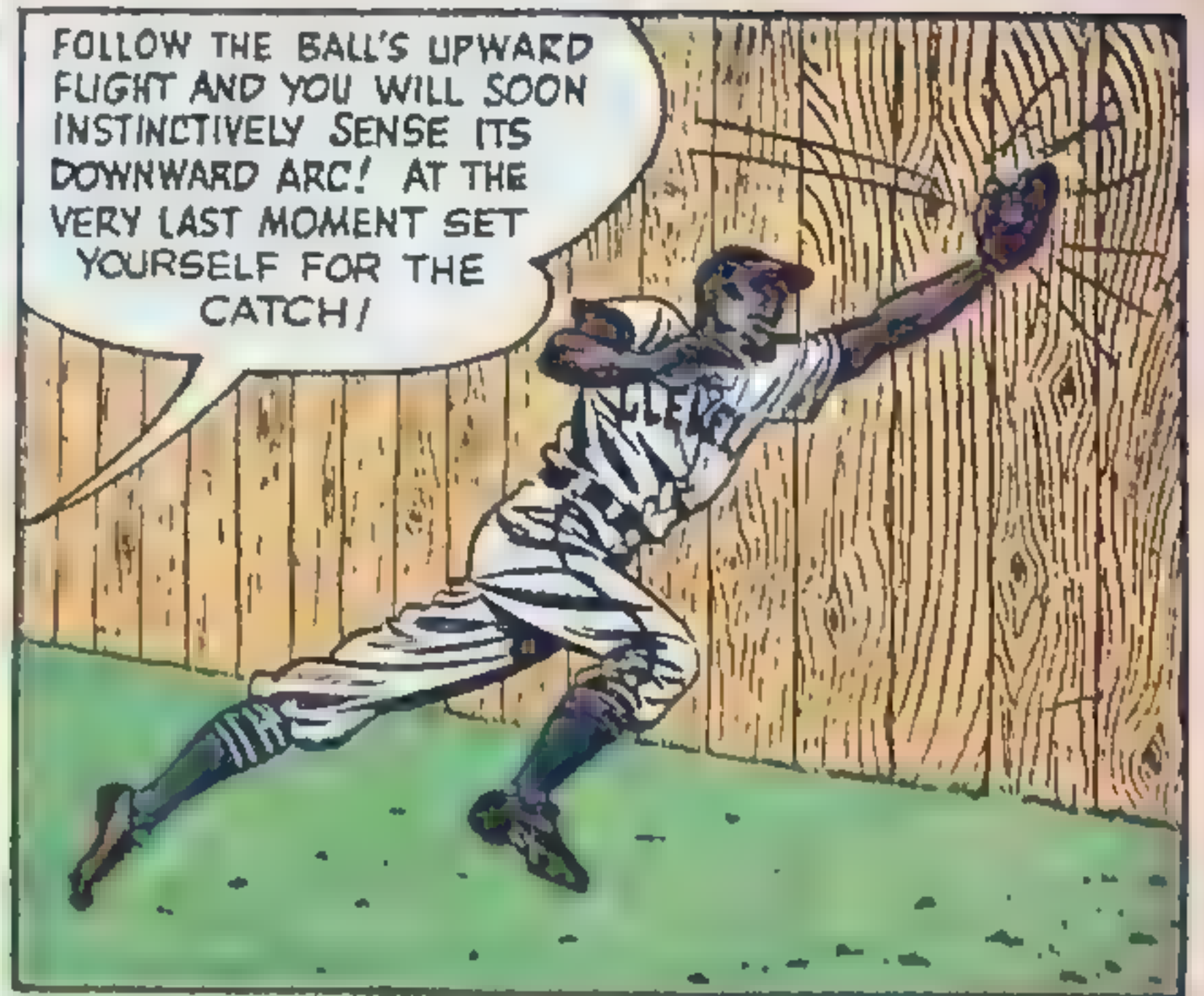
TUCKER
MITCHELL
EDWARDS
CLARK
JUDNICH
PECK
SEEREY
DOBY



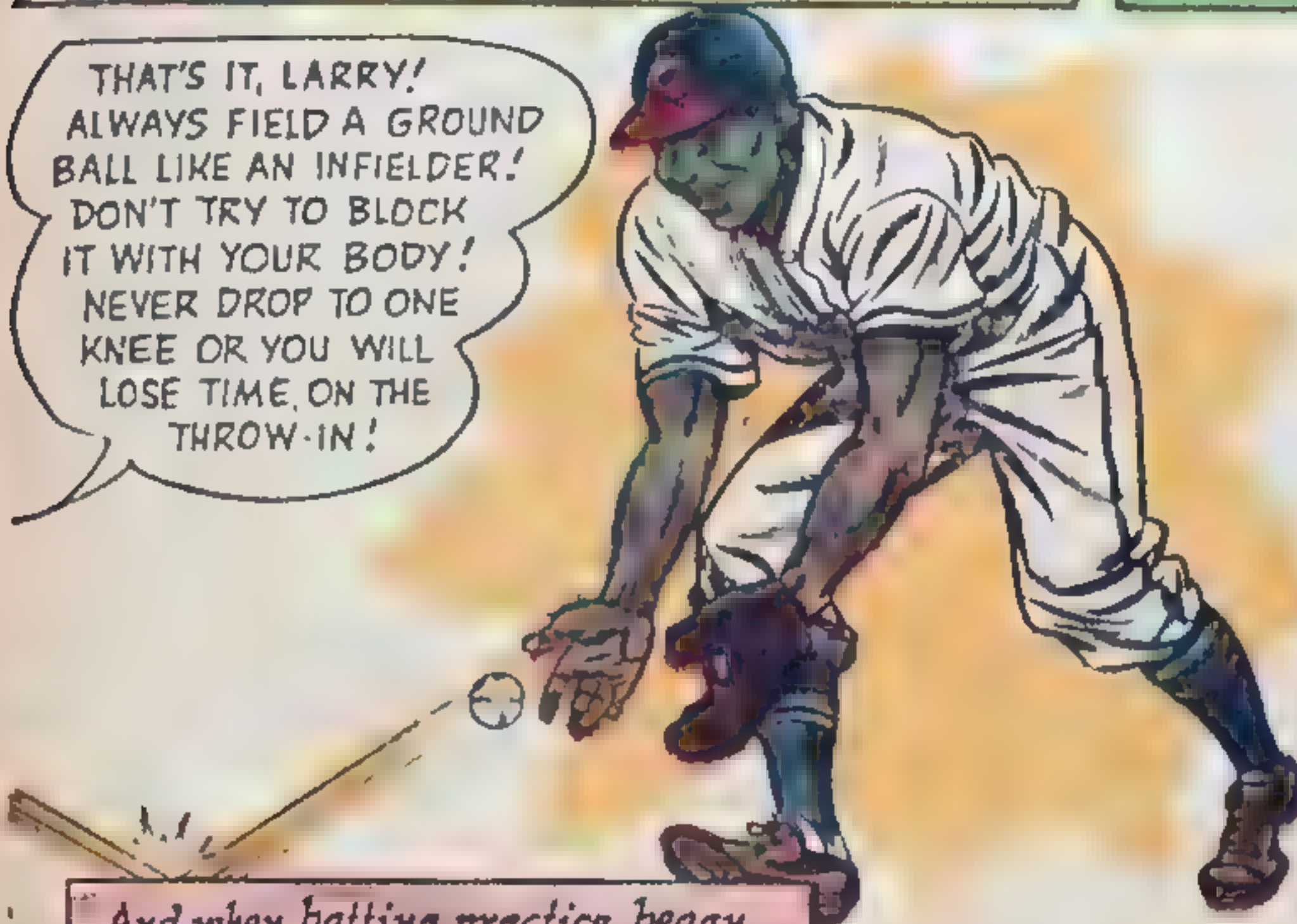
Larry's teacher was none other than baseball's immortal Gray Eagle, the peerless Tris Speaker, whose uncanny speed and skill had made him the greatest defensive outfielder of all time! Thrills ran up and down Larry's spine as he taxied to the ball park with old "Spoke," champion batsman, hero of the Hall of Fame!



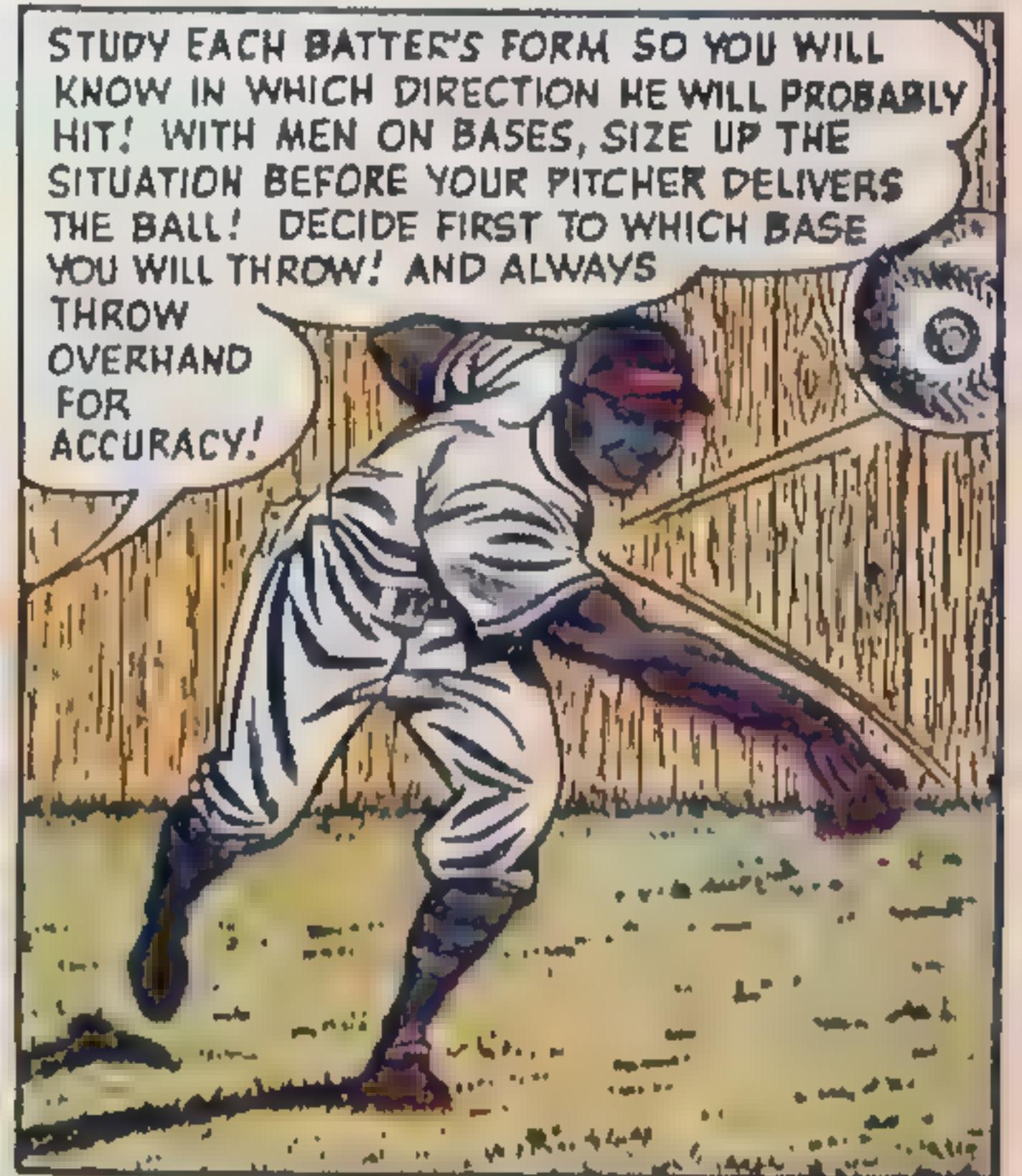
YOU HAVE THE SPEED, LARRY, TO PLAY IN CLOSE FOR MOST HITTERS THE WAY I ONCE DID! ANGLE YOUR BODY SLIGHTLY TO GET THE JUMP ON THE BALL! IF IT GOES OVER YOUR HEAD, TURN QUICKLY AND RACE BACKWARD!



FOLLOW THE BALL'S UPWARD FLIGHT AND YOU WILL SOON INSTINCTIVELY SENSE ITS DOWNWARD ARC! AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT SET YOURSELF FOR THE CATCH!

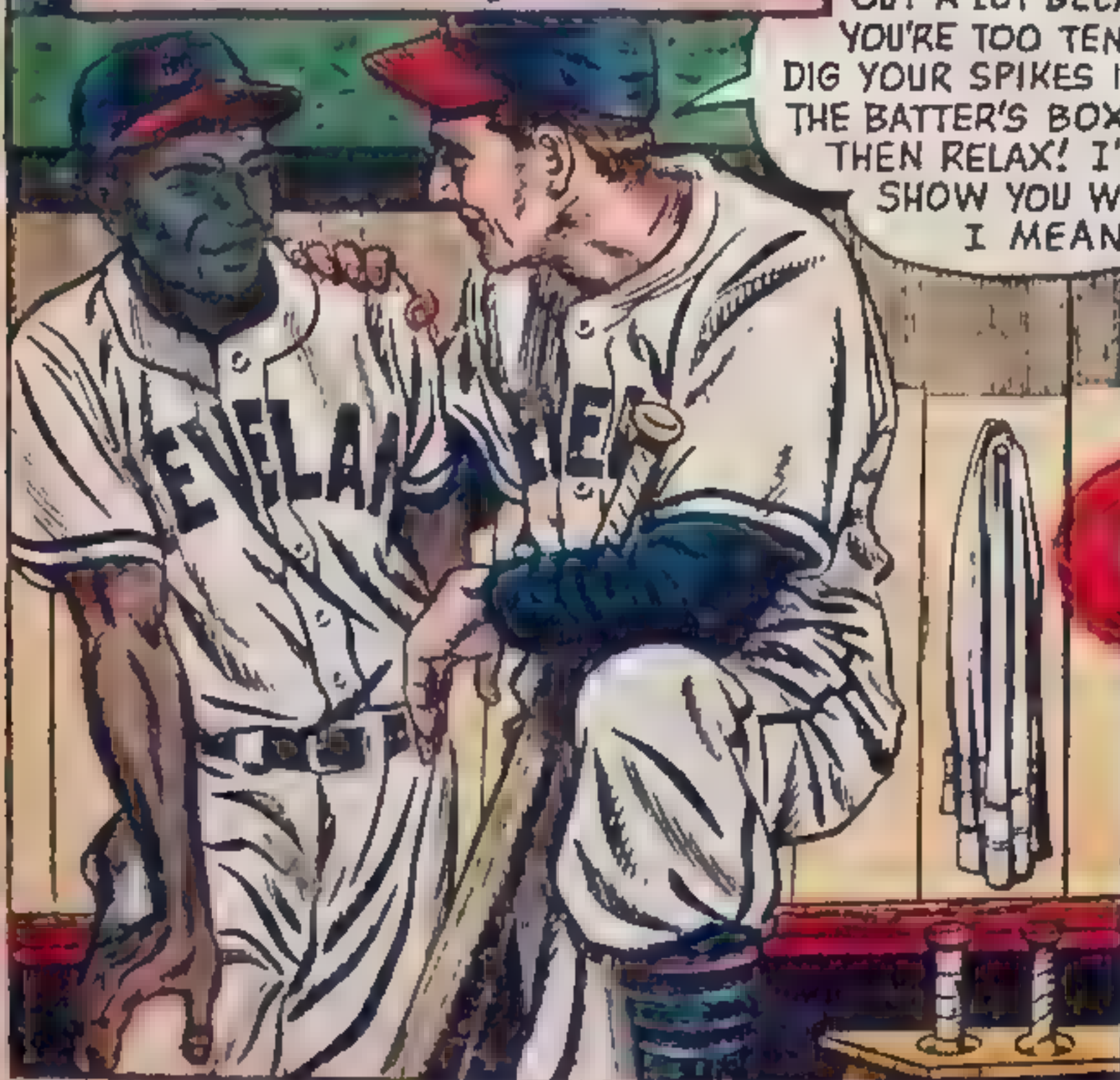


THAT'S IT, LARRY! ALWAYS FIELD A GROUND BALL LIKE AN INFIELDER! DON'T TRY TO BLOCK IT WITH YOUR BODY! NEVER DROP TO ONE KNEE OR YOU WILL LOSE TIME ON THE THROW-IN!



STUDY EACH BATTER'S FORM SO YOU WILL KNOW IN WHICH DIRECTION HE WILL PROBABLY HIT! WITH MEN ON BASES, SIZE UP THE SITUATION BEFORE YOUR PITCHER DELIVERS THE BALL! DECIDE FIRST TO WHICH BASE YOU WILL THROW! AND ALWAYS THROW OVERHAND FOR ACCURACY!

And when batting practice began, Larry's teacher was Hank Greenberg, former home-run terror of the American League!



YOU'VE BEEN STRIKING OUT A LOT BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO TENSE! DIG YOUR SPIKES INTO THE BATTER'S BOX, THEN RELAX! I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN!



SOME BATTERS--LIKE WILLIAMS OR DIMAGGIO--MEET THE BALL AT THE LAST SPLIT SECOND, SNAPPING THEIR WRISTS FOR EXTRA POWER! THEY HIT LATE, BUT YOU HAVE THE BODY SWING AND CAN DRIVE JUST AS FAR WITHOUT "BREAKING" YOUR WRISTS!

Larry Doby became a full-fledged major leaguer on April 18, 1948, the season's opening day! All eyes were riveted on him as he took his position in right field behind Bob Feller, the Indians' fire-ball hurler, who shut out the St. Louis Browns in a typical masterly performance!



After having batted .354 in spring practice, Larry was seized with a bad case of stage fright in his first big league game, fanning twice! After the game...

I COULDN'T HIT A LICK TODAY, JOE!

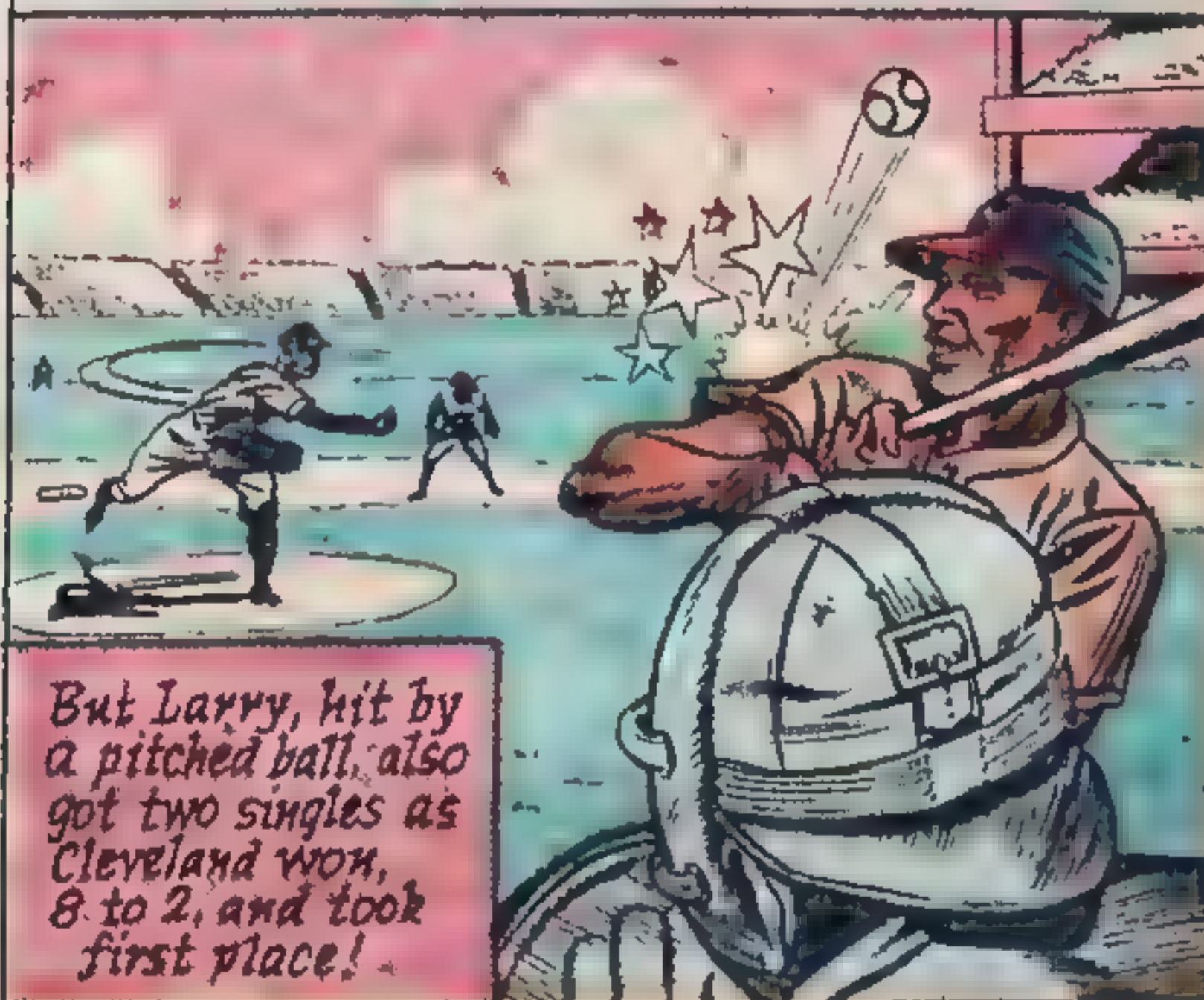
NEITHER COULD I, LARRY! THERE'LL BE OTHER DAYS FOR US!



And there WAS another day, Larry's day! He hit his first major league home run against Detroit on April 23!

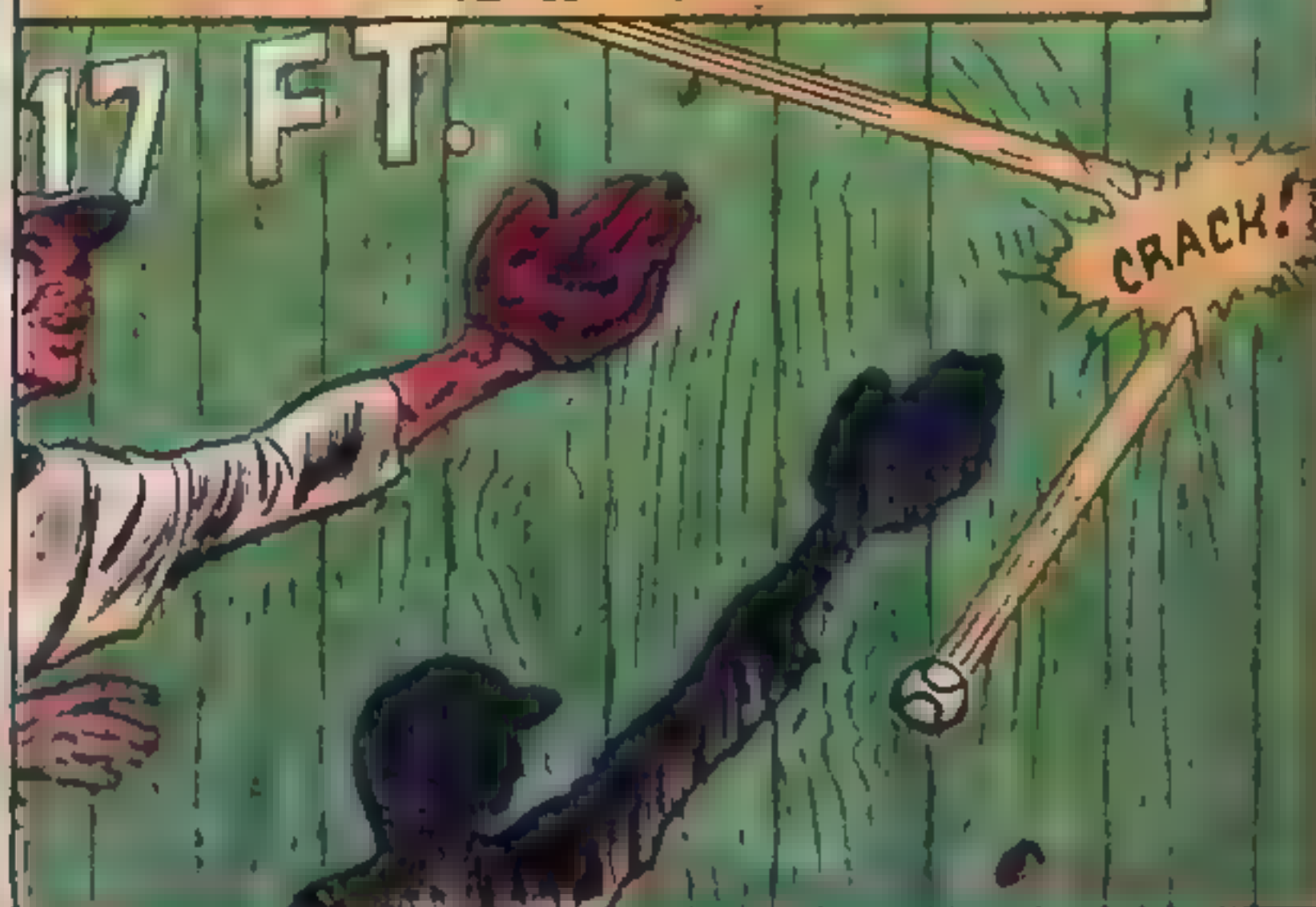


Tiger pitchers gave Larry the usual rookie treatment, buzzing fast balls under his chin!

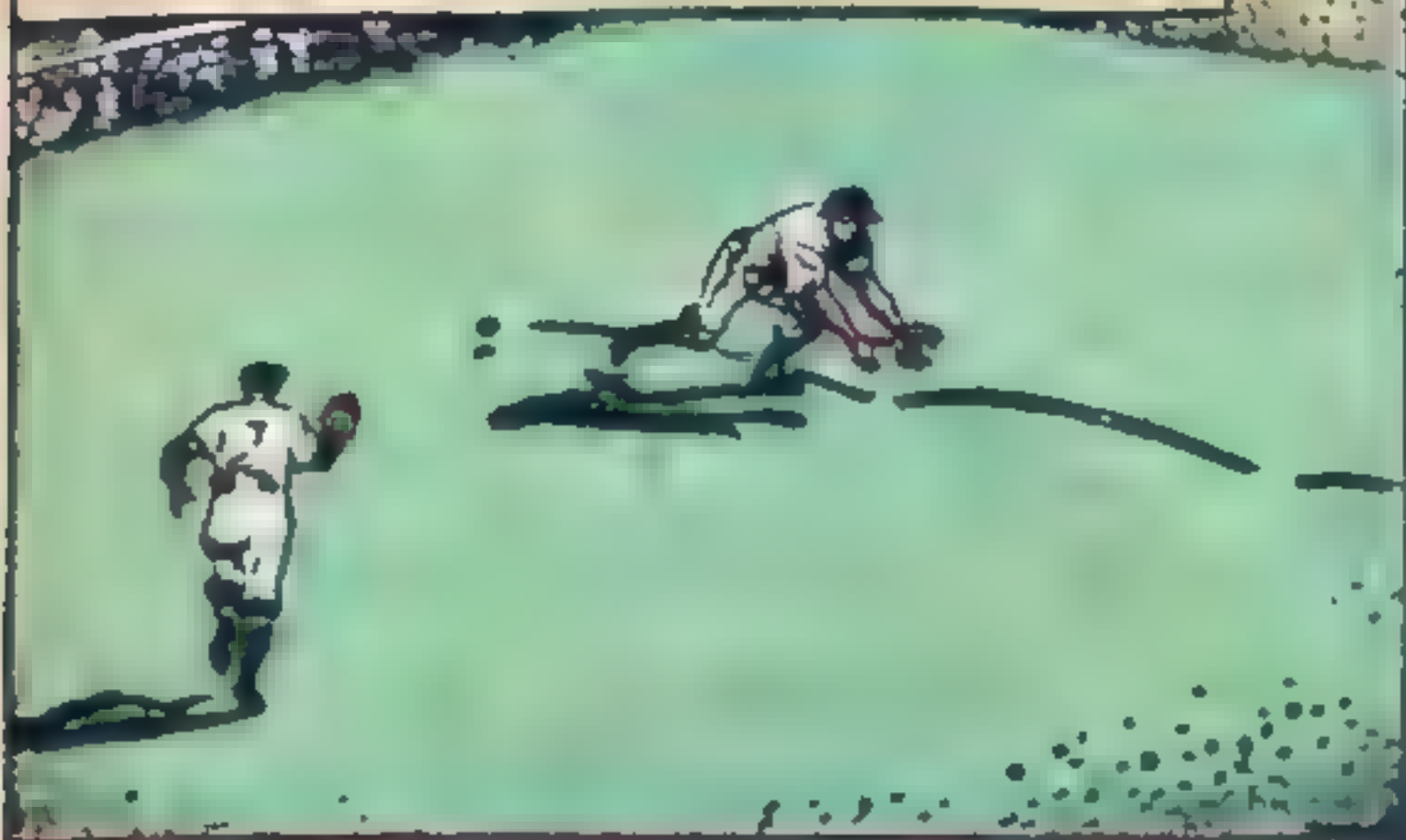


But Larry, hit by a pitched ball, also got two singles as Cleveland won, 8 to 2, and took first place!

In Chicago, on April 26, Larry's three hits, including a homer, blasted the White Sox, 12 to 11!



But over-anxious Larry sometimes forgot Tris Speaker's wise advice!



Larry made three errors against the Tigers on May first, the Indians losing!

Before the next day's game...

YOU'RE OUT OF THE LINEUP TODAY, LARRY! SIT NEXT TO ME AND WATCH THE GAME CLOSELY!

I'M SORRY ABOUT THOSE ERRORS YESTERDAY, LOU!



For a week Larry sat nervously on the bench. On May 8, he played again in Washington's Griffith Stadium. Grimly resolved to stay in the lineup, Larry rocketed the ball into right center field...



His blow, a tremendous clout, traveled farther than Babe Ruth's blast over the center field wall in 1926!

450 FEET

GRIFFITH STADIUM

The Red Sox challenged Cleveland's lead as the Indians started a series in Boston! But Larry's two singles, double and homer beat them in the first game!

CONGRATS, LARRY!

THAT WAS SOME HOMER!



The Indians swept the three-game Red Sox series, behind magnificent pitching by Feller, Lemon and Bearden!

But Larry had not yet won a job as a regular! Used only against right hand pitchers, shuttling between right and center field, he was in and out of the Indians' lineup! Then, on June 27, against the Senators, he lined safely to right, slid into second! A sharp pain shot through his right leg! He tried to rise to his feet but collapsed, writhing in pain!

WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL AND X-RAY YOUR ANKLE TO SEE IF IT'S BROKEN, LARRY!

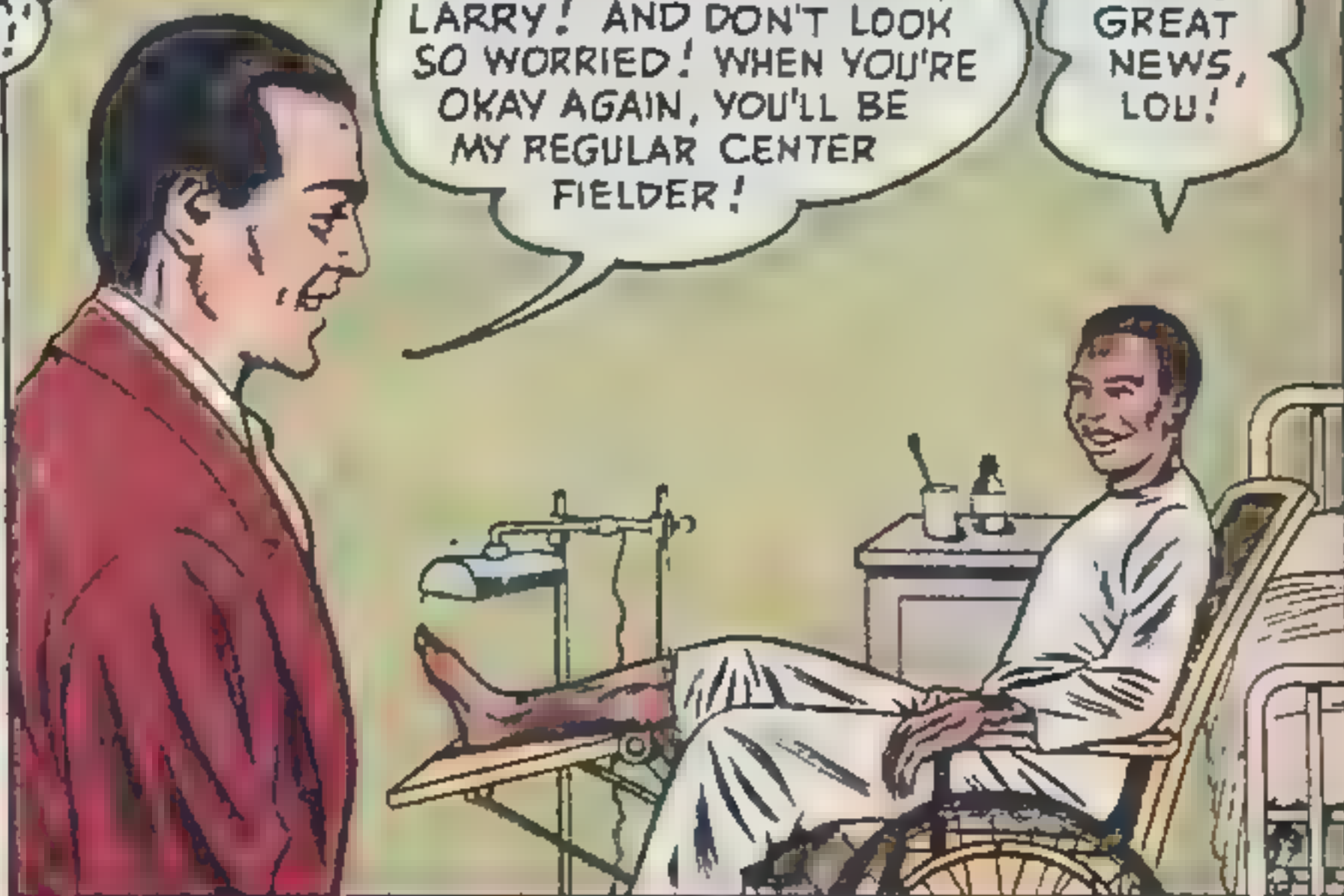
TOUGH LUCK, KID!



As Larry anxiously awaited the X-Ray report, Manager Boudreau arrived at the hospital!

IT'S ONLY A BAD STRAIN, LARRY! AND DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED! WHEN YOU'RE OKAY AGAIN, YOU'LL BE MY REGULAR CENTER FIELDER!

THAT'S GREAT NEWS, LOU!



As Larry waited for his ankle to mend, a new pitcher joined the Indians!

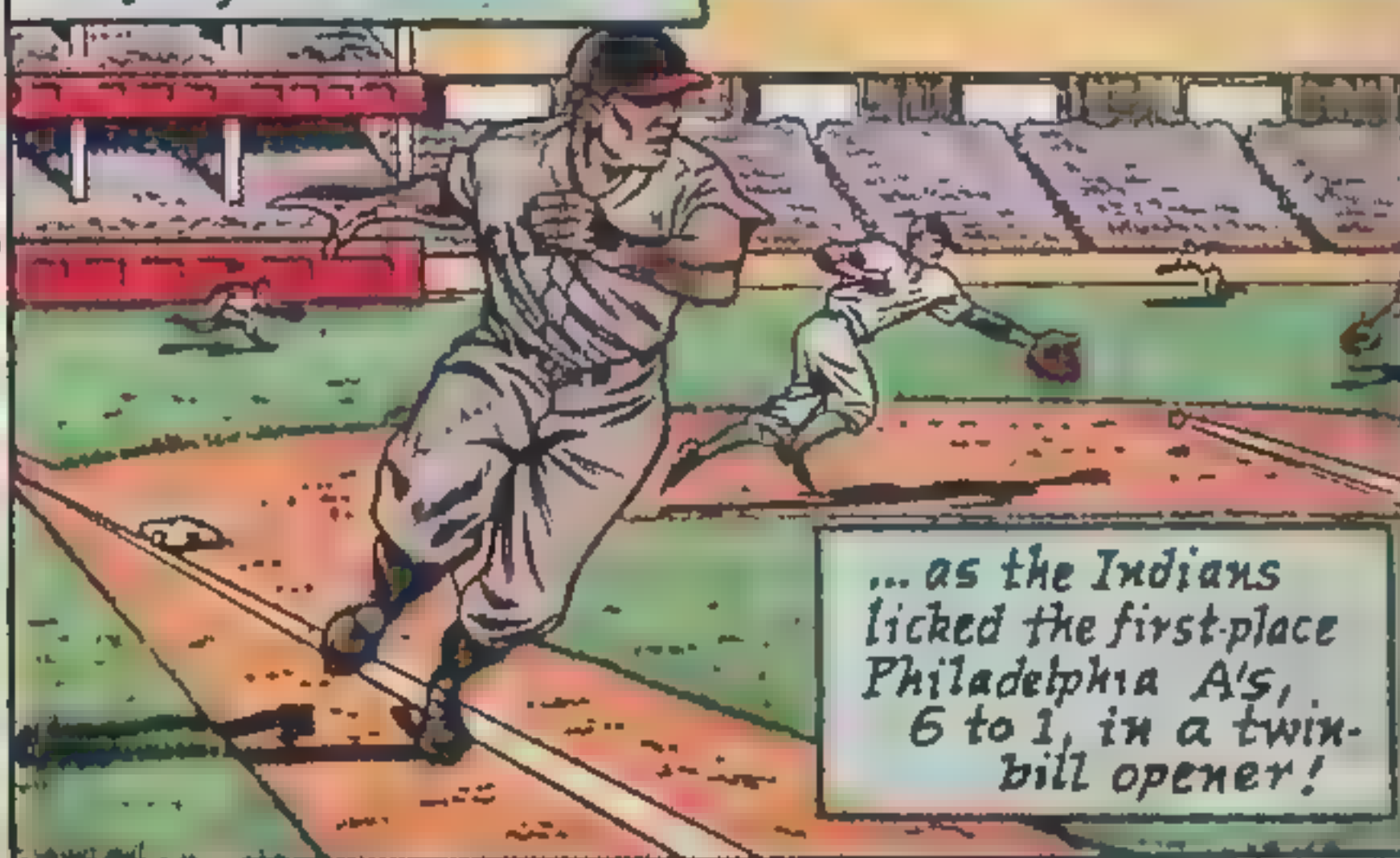
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ALL THOSE CLOTHES, SATCH? YOU'RE IN THE BIG LEAGUES NOW AND ALL YOU NEED IS A BASEBALL UNIFORM!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, SONNY! I'VE BEEN WINNING BALL GAMES FOR THIRTY YEARS AND WEARING A DIFFERENT SUIT EVERY NIGHT!



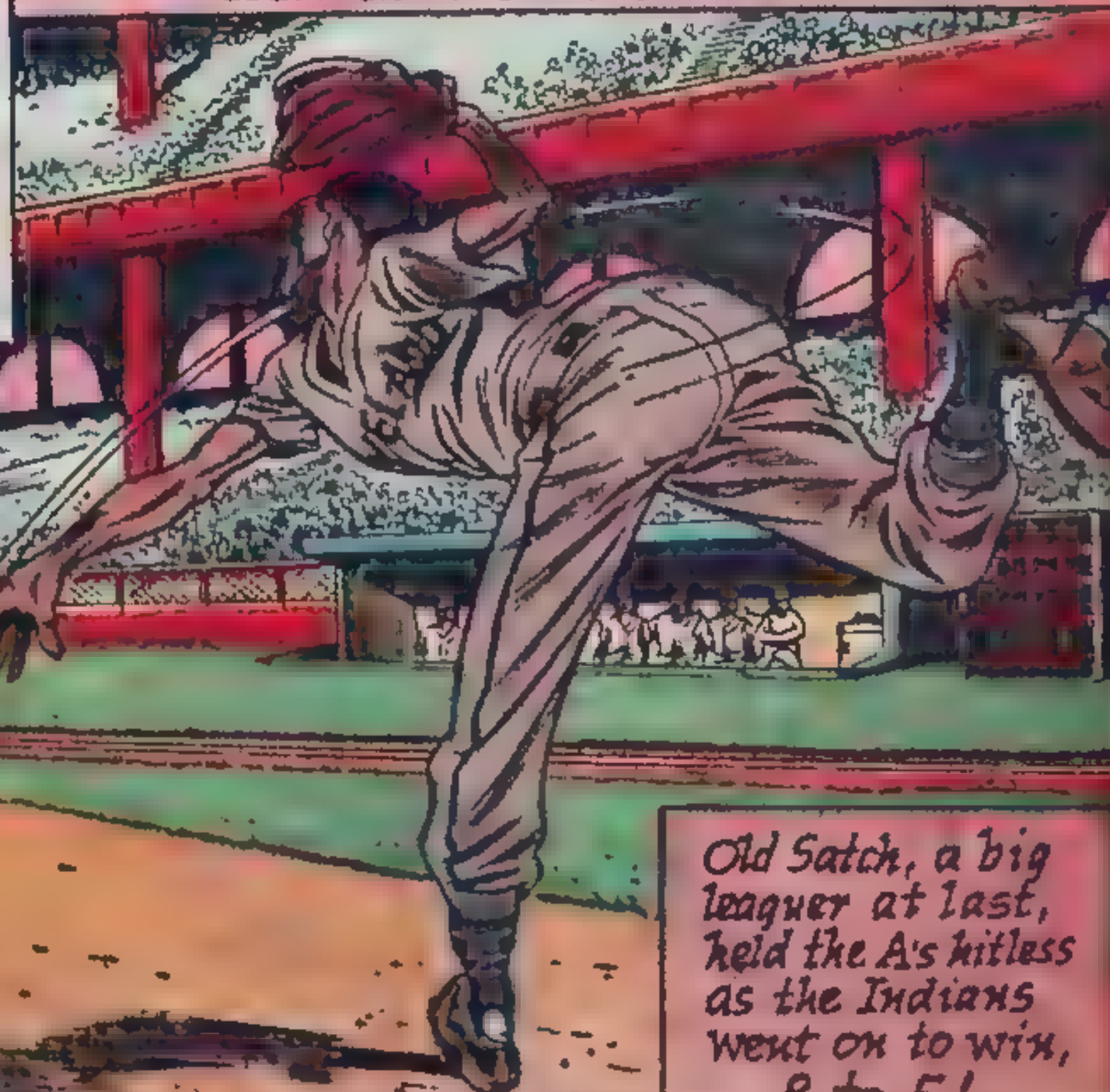
Larry's new roommate was Satchel Paige, the legendary Negro hurling ace!

When Larry returned to the lineup, he celebrated by singling home a run ...



... as the Indians licked the first-place Philadelphia A's, 6 to 1, in a twin-bill opener!

Then Satchel Paige, in his first relief job, took the mound!



Old Satch, a big leaguer at last, held the A's hitless as the Indians went on to win, 8 to 5!

And in the second game, Larry belted a 400-foot homer in the second inning, his second of the year!



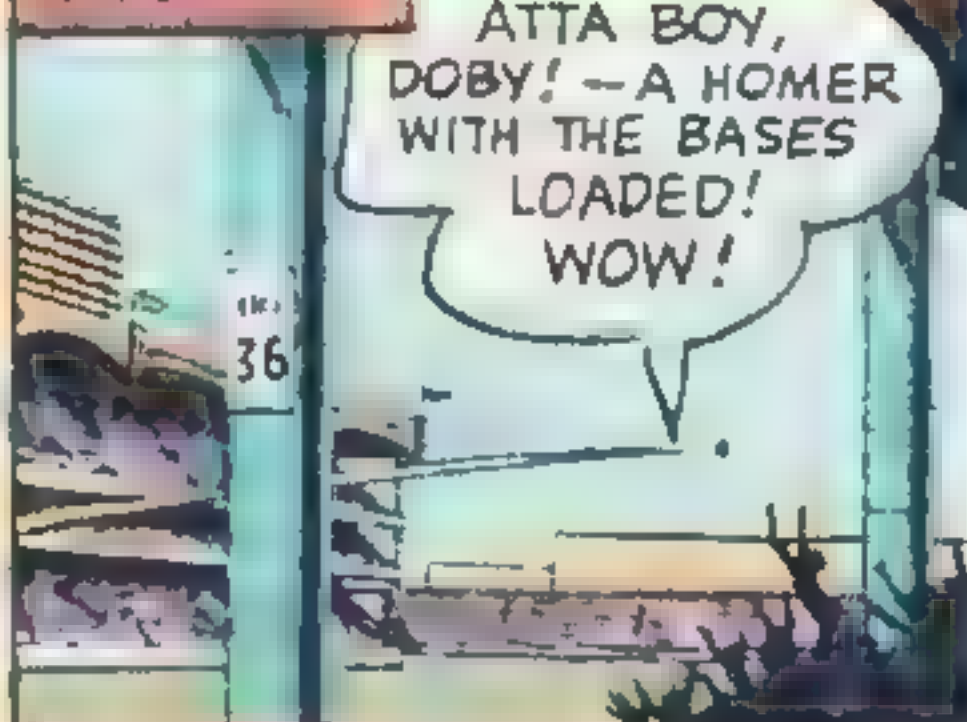
Larry's blast gave the Indians a 5 to 0 lead! But in the eighth, Bob Lemon weakened, the A's tying the count, 5 to 5! The bases were full with two out!

STRIKE THREE!



The flag race became hotter as the Red Sox swept past the A's and the Indians to take the lead! Soon fans were saying: "As Doby goes, so goes the team!" When he was in a batting slump or misjudged a fly-- the Indians lost! When he hit a homer or made a sensational catch, the Indians won!

As September began, the Indians dropped four and one-half games behind the Red Sox! Suddenly, Larry took fire, spraying singles, doubles, triples! By Sept. 6 he had hit safely in nineteen consecutive games! On Sept. 16...



ATTA BOY, DOBY! -- A HOMER WITH THE BASES LOADED! WOW!

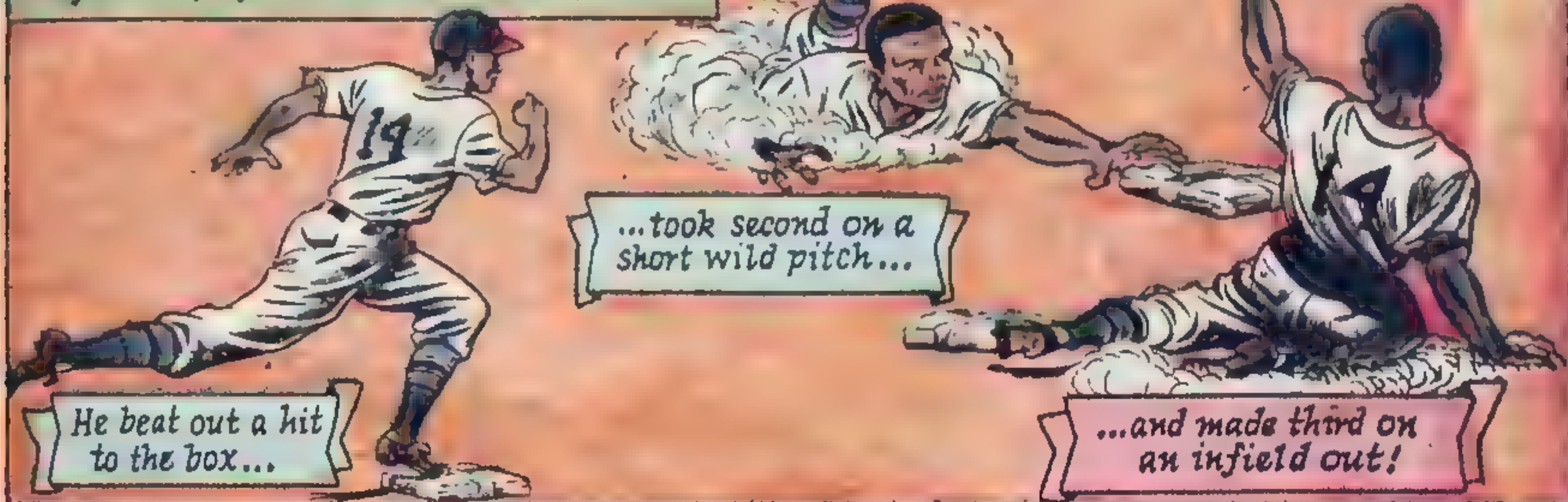
Larry's majestic wallop lifted the Indians to second place, two and one half games behind!

Larry crushed the A's on Sept. 19 with another four-baser, driving home Joe Gordon in the ninth to win, 5 to 3!



The Indians beat the A's twice, knocking them out of the race!

Magnificently battling day by day, the Indians finally went into a triple tie for the lead with the Red Sox and Yanks on Sept. 24! Facing the Tigers that day, Bob Feller hurled superbly but trailed, 1 to 0, in the fifth! Then Larry staged an unforgettable exhibition of speed!



He beat out a hit to the box...

...took second on a short wild pitch...

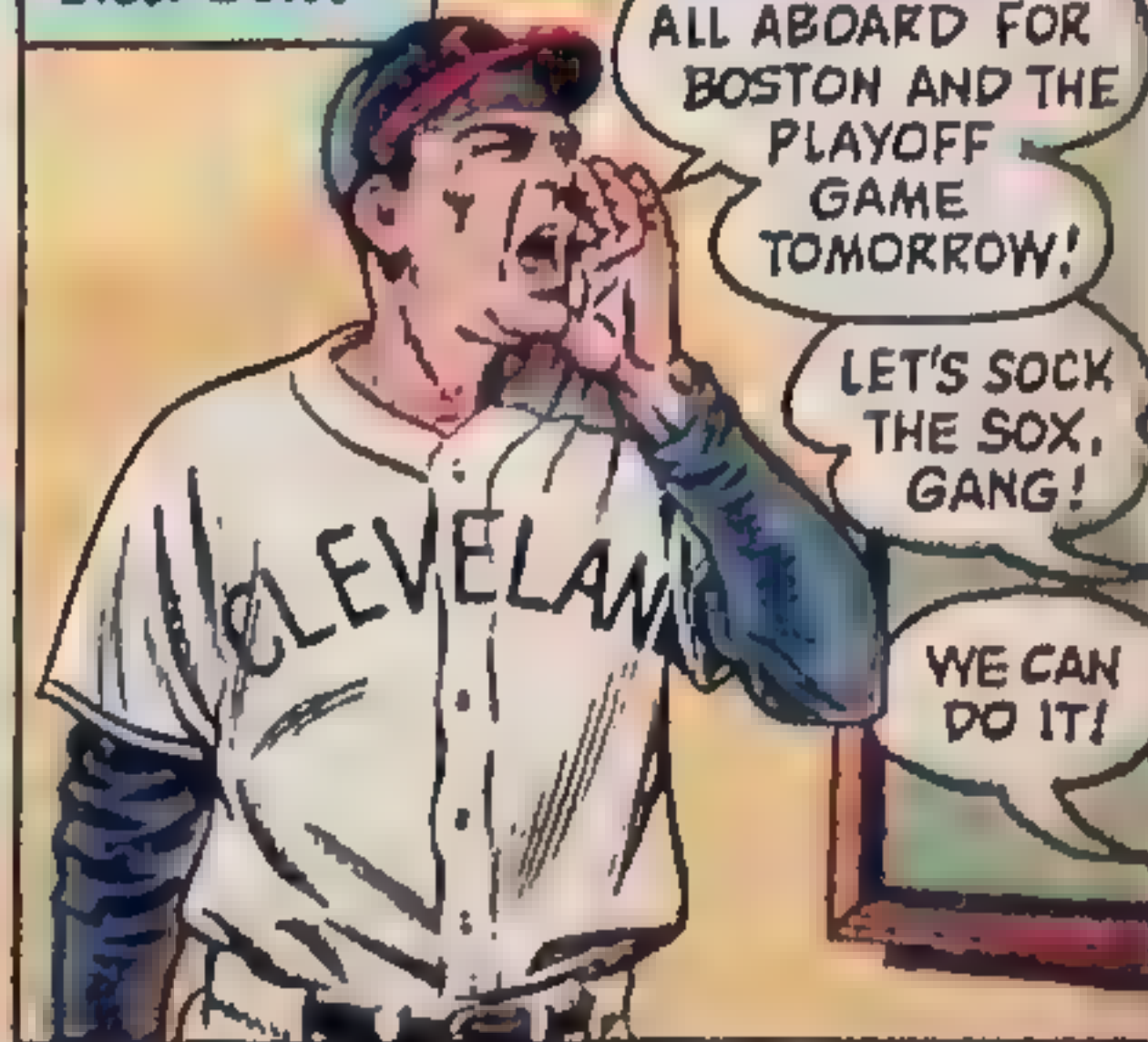
...and made third on an infield out!

With Feller up, Boudreau called for a squeeze play! Larry bolted toward the plate and...



...scored the tying run on Feller's perfect bunt. It was a vital run, the Indians winning, 4 to 3!

Larry made six hits in the season's last three games, but the Indians lost one to the Tigers! It was an almost fatal defeat-- they ended the race tied with the battling Red Sox!



ALL ABOARD FOR BOSTON AND THE PLAYOFF GAME TOMORROW!

LET'S SOCK THE SOX, GANG!

WE CAN DO IT!

Boston seethed with excitement as the first playoff game in American League history began in Fenway Park on Oct. 4! The Sox relied on veteran right hander Dennie Galehouse! The Indians sent rookie southpaw Gene Bearden to the mound! Boudreau's long homer gave the Indians a tally in the first, but Boston quickly evened the count!

In the fourth, Galehouse cracked wide open! Boudreau and Gordon singled, then Ken Keltner cracked a homer!

NICE CLOUT, KEN! THAT PUTS US THREE RUNS UP ON THEM!



Larry greeted relief pitcher Ellis Kinder with a crackling two bagger!



Then a sacrifice and an infield out tallied Larry!

WE WON THE FLAG!

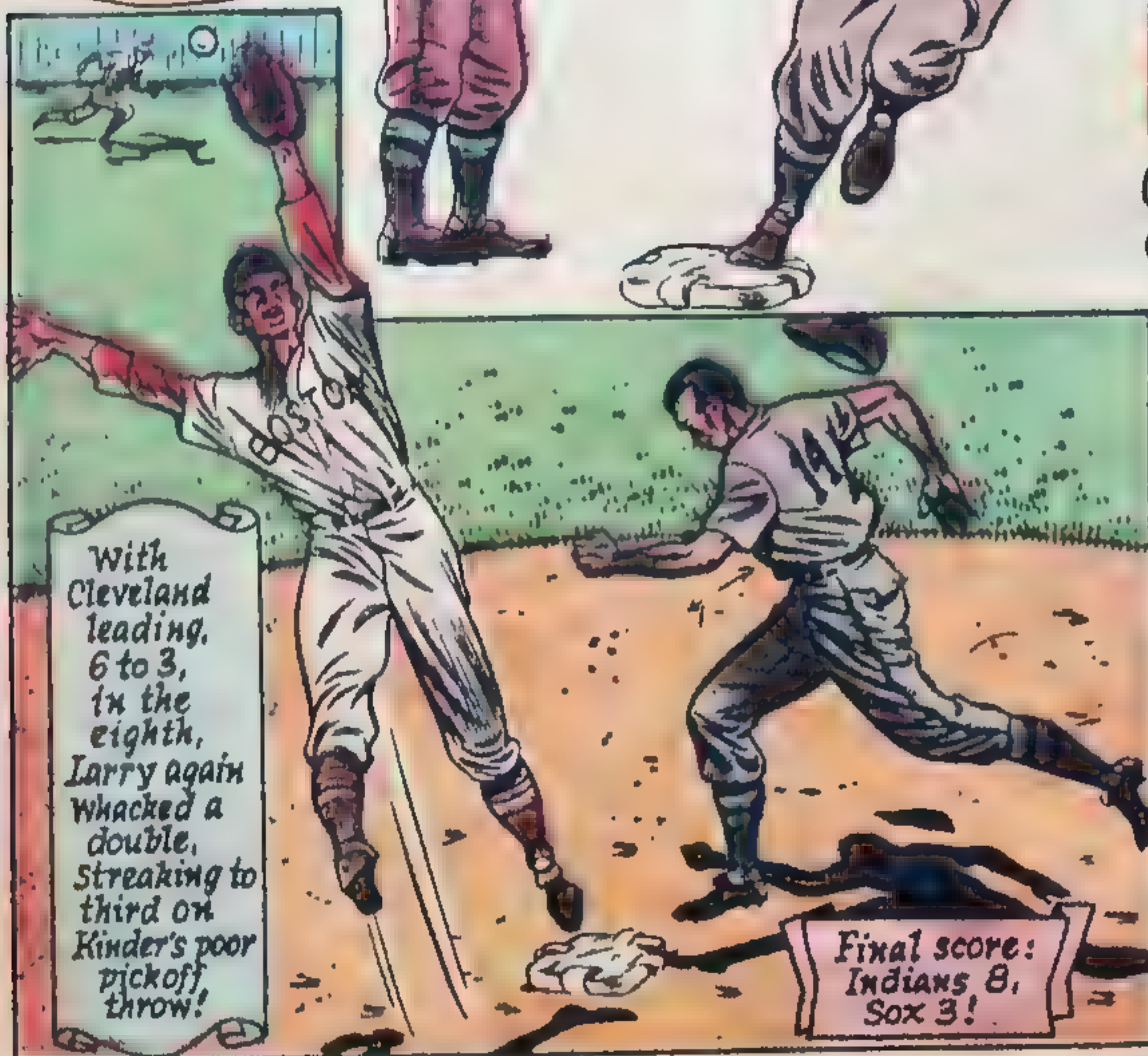
LOU DID IT!

YOU'RE ALL CHAMPIONS, BOYS!

LOU'S A SWELL GUY!



Deliriously happy, the Indians mobbed Lou Boudreau, star of the game with two homers and two singles!



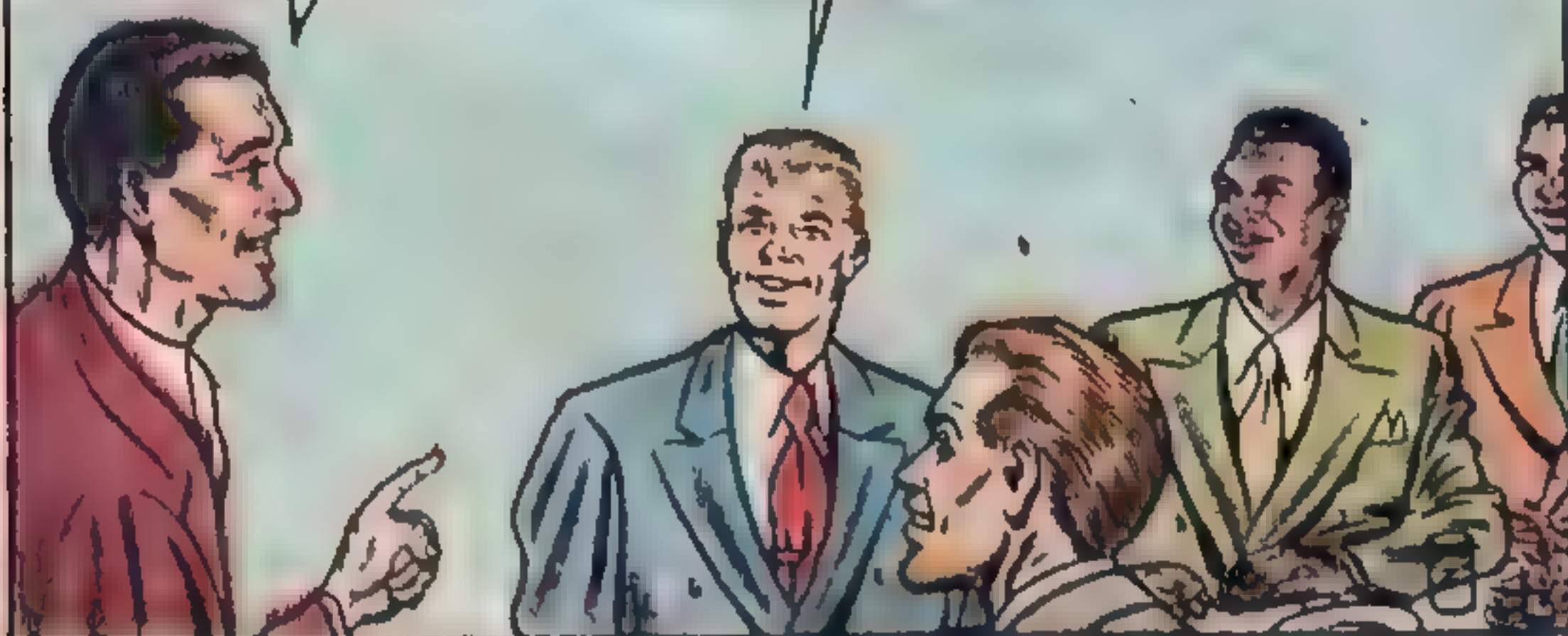
With Cleveland leading, 6 to 3, in the eighth, Larry again whacked a double, streaking to third on Kinder's poor pickoff throw!

Final score: Indians 8, Sox 3!

The Indians' celebration continued at their hotel that night!

...AND WITH THE KIND OF SPIRIT WE HAVE ON THIS CLUB, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THE BRAVES, TOO!

WE'LL BE IN THERE FIGHTING, LOU!



Larry Doby's Record for 1948:

Batting Average	.301
Runs	83
Hits	132
Doubles	23
Triples	9
Home Runs	14
Total Bases	215
Runs Batted In	66

The confident Indians eagerly gathered at Braves Field on Oct. 6 to meet the National League Champions! During batting practice...

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE IN THE WORLD SERIES, LARRY?

ONE BALL GAME IS JUST LIKE ANOTHER, BILL! WE TRY TO WIN THEM ALL!

C'MON, LARRY! LET'S SEE YOU BELT SOME OUT OF THE PARK!

For seven innings of the first game, Bob Feller and Johnny Sain battled to a scoreless tie! In the eighth, Feller tried to pick Braves' pinch-runner Phil Masi off second base! When Umpire Bill Stewart called Masi safe...

BUT I TELL YOU I TAGGED MASI BEFORE HE GOT BACK TO THE BAG, STEWART!

PLAY BALL, BOUDREAU!

Tommy Holmes' single scored Masi, the Braves winning, 1 to 0! Larry's sixth inning single was wasted!

The Braves led, 1 to 0, in the fourth inning of the second game! After Boudreau doubled, Gordon single-scored Lou! Then Larry singled!

HIT THE DIRT, JOE!

The proud city of Cleveland hailed the champion Indians on Oct. 8!

SIGN MY BOOK, LARRY!

HURRAY, LOU!

THERE'S JOE!

GOOD WORK, LARRY!

Bob Lemon's cagey hurling crushed the Braves, 4 to 1, and the series was even!

In the third game, sensational Gene Bearden held the Braves for three innings! In the third inning, Gene doubled and Dale Mitchell walked! Larry shot a grounder to Stanky who whipped the ball to shortstop Alvin Dark!

OUT AT SECOND!

But Dark, fearing Larry's great speed, threw wildly!

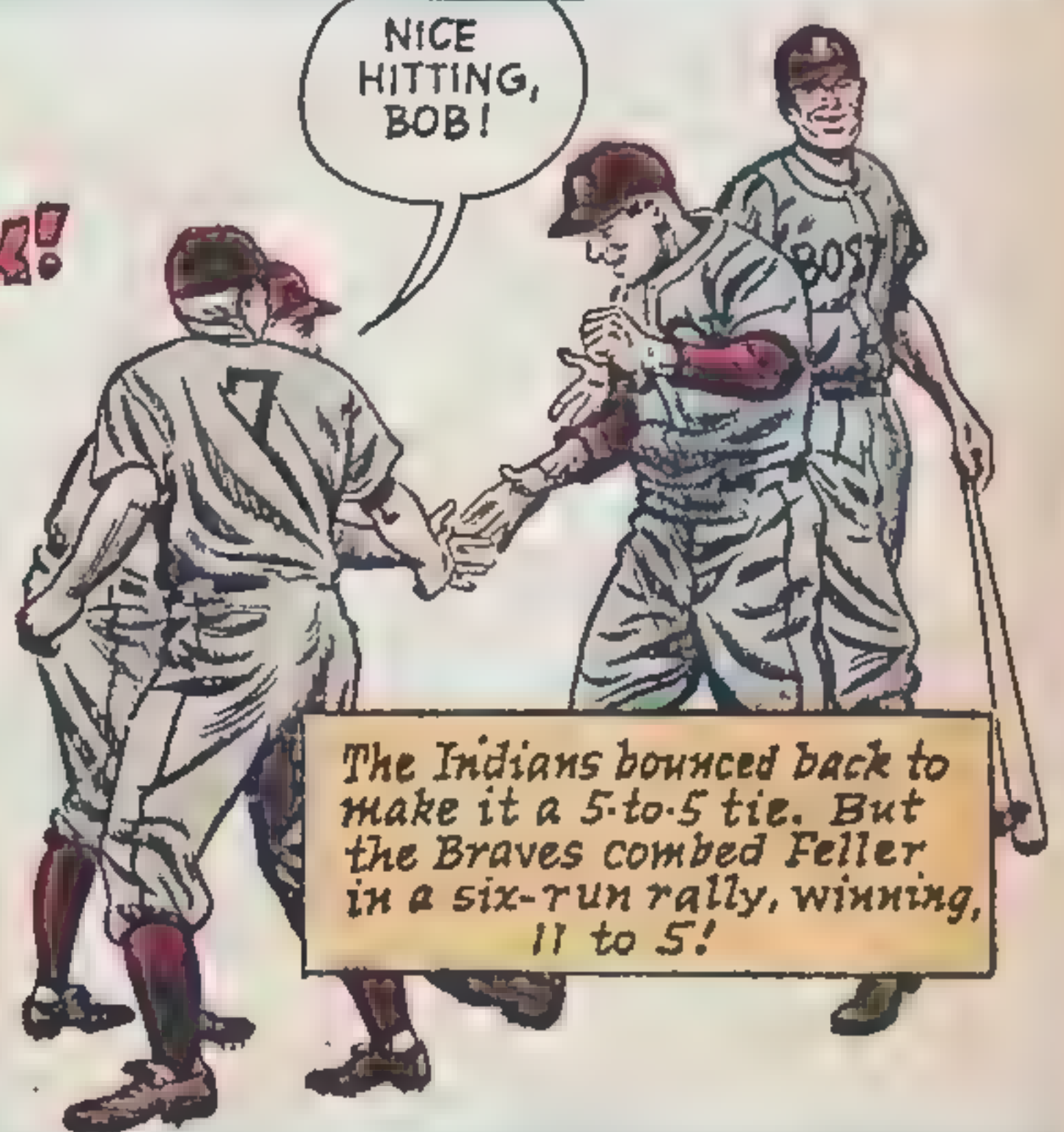
The ball went into the Braves' dugout, Bearden easily scoring! It was the decisive run in a thrilling 2-to-0 Indian victory!

Steve Gromek was the Indians' starter before a record 81,897 series crowd in the fourth game! Johnny Sain fed Larry a fast ball in the third and...



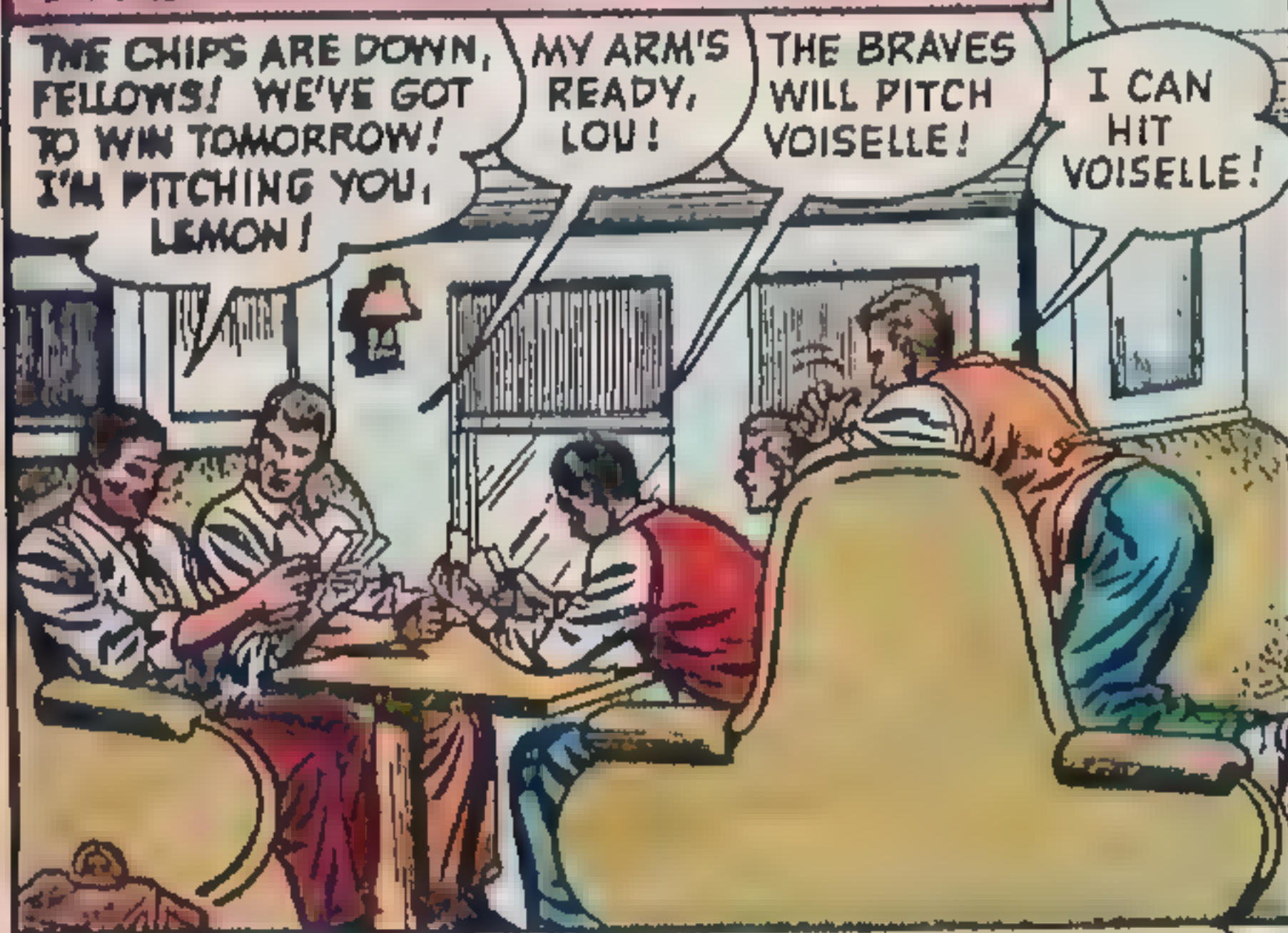
Larry's blow was again decisive, for the Indians won — 2 to 1!

Before the greatest baseball crowd of all time, 86,288, the Braves rallied for a desperate last stand in the fifth game! With two on in the first inning, all-star Bob Elliott larrupped Bob Feller for a homer.

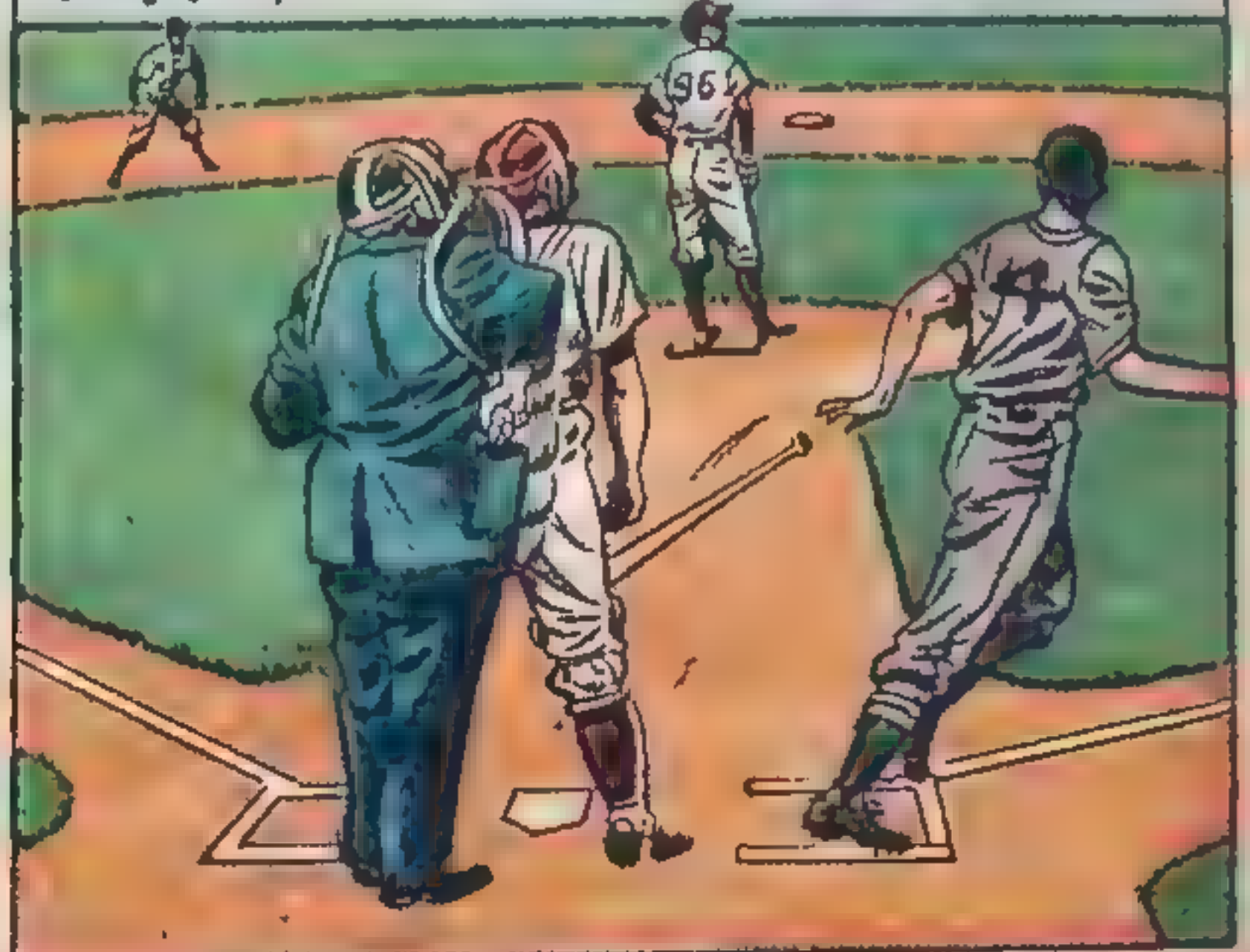


The Indians bounced back to make it a 5-to-5 tie. But the Braves combed Feller in a six-run rally, winning, 11 to 5!

On the Boston-bound train that night...



Doubles by Mitchell and Boudreau gave the Indians a run in the third, but the Braves nicked Lemon for a tally in the fourth. In the fifth, Gordon blasted Voiselle for a homer!



Gordon's clout was the margin of Cleveland victory in the 4-to-3 thriller! The triumphant Indians raced madly to the clubhouse!



In his first world series, Larry led the Indian hitters with an average of .318! In twenty-two times at bat he made seven hits for eleven bases!

So supremely confident he would again win the flag, Manager Boudreau met reporters as the Indians started for spring training at Tucson, Arizona, on March 7, 1949!

THE TEAM'S IN FINE SHAPE! WE DID IT LAST YEAR AND CAN DO IT AGAIN!



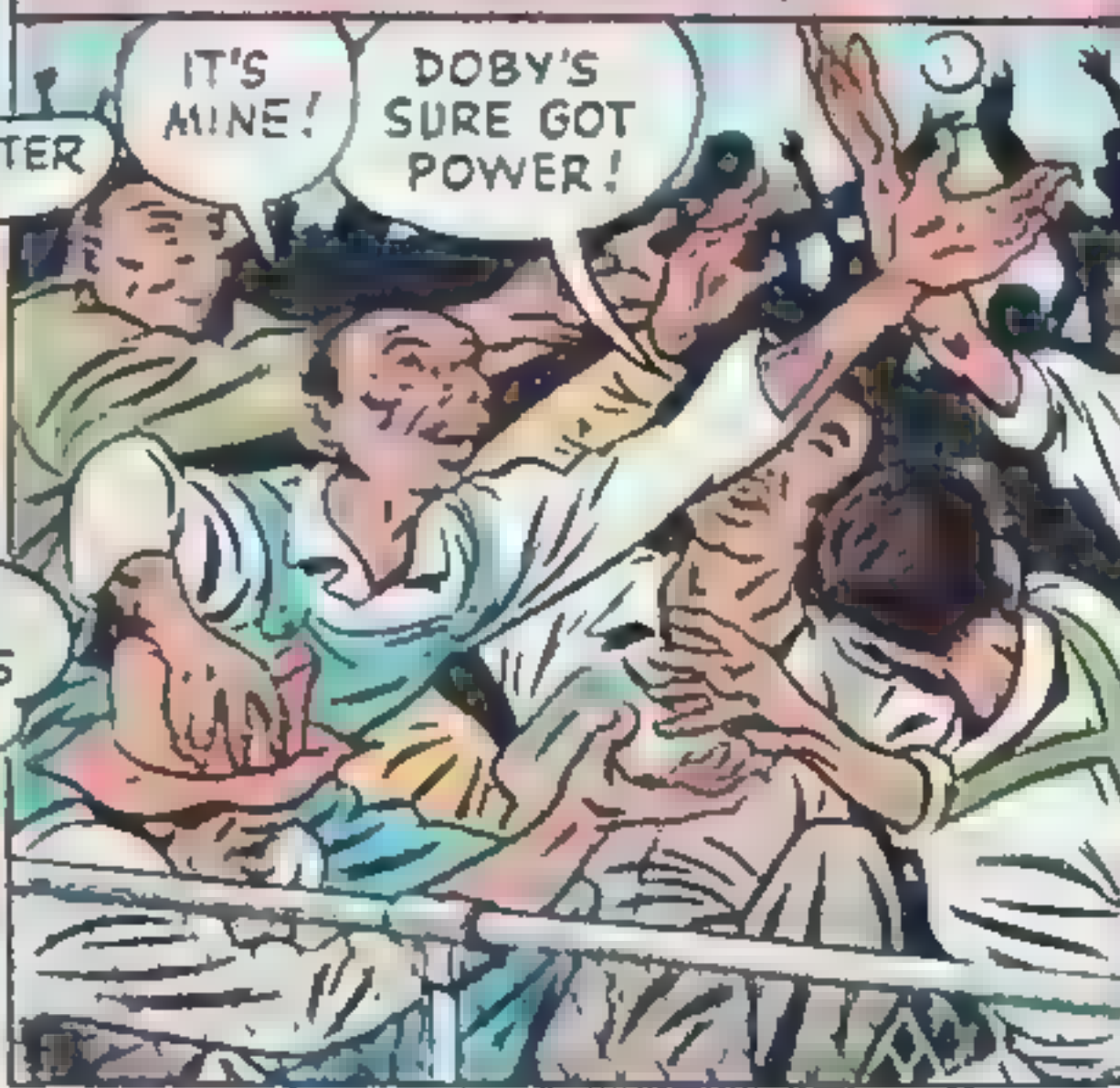
WHO'LL PLAY CENTER FIELD, LOU?

HOW'S FELLER'S ARM?

Larry's hitting was the sensation of the camp! In an exhibition game at Houston, Texas, he drove a four-hundred-forty foot homer, the longest on record at the Houston park!

IT'S MINE!

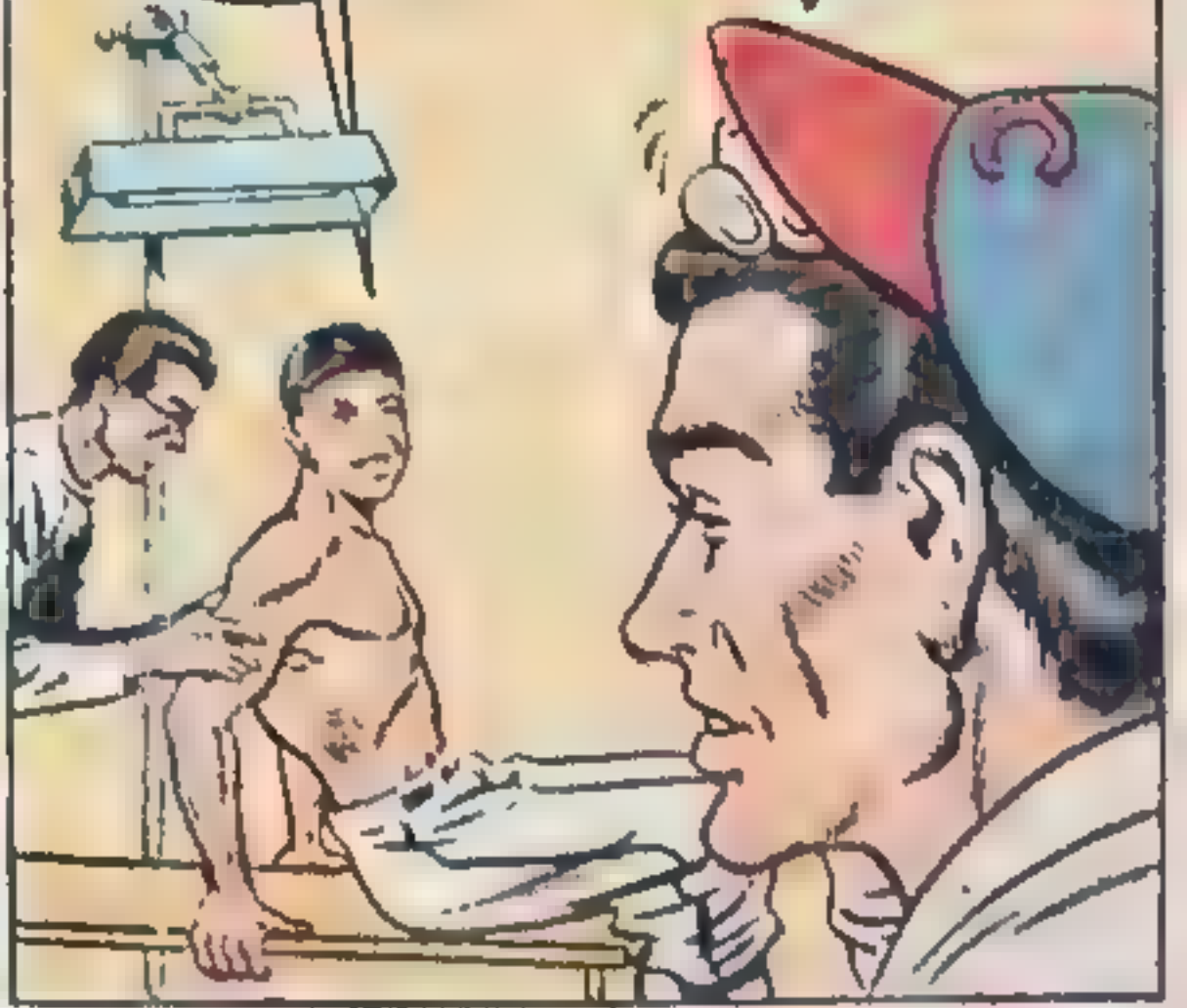
DOBY'S SURE GOT POWER!



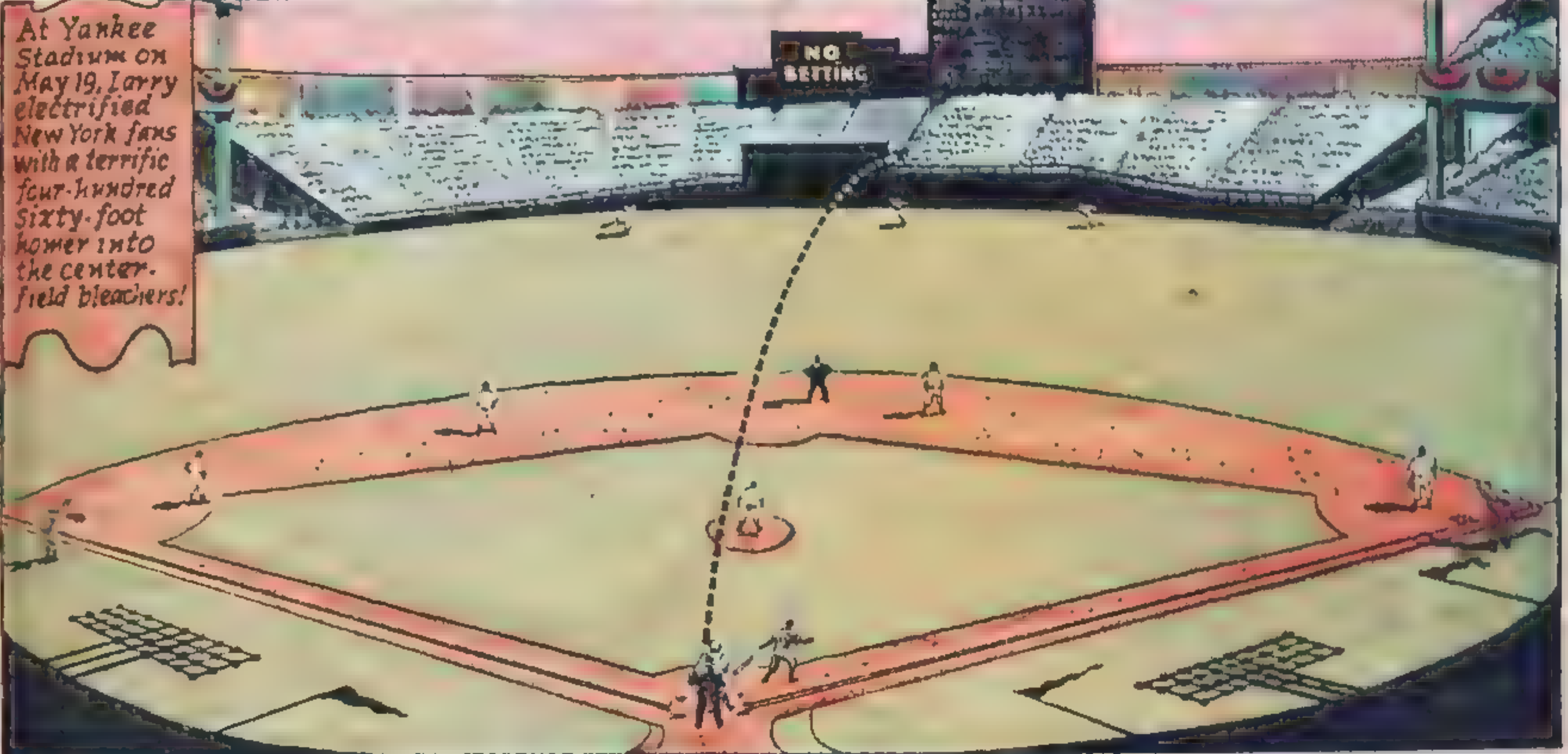
But misfortune struck the Indians as the regular season opened on April 19!

I PULLED A MUSCLE IN MY BACK, LOU!

THAT'S TOUGH, BOB! LEMON AND BEARDEN HAVE SORE ARMS, TOO!



At Yankee Stadium on May 19, Larry electrified New York fans with a terrific four-hundred-sixty-foot homer into the center-field bleachers!



Veteran sports writers were amazed by Larry's Herculean blast!

I TELL YOU, LARRY HITS HARDER THAN BABE RUTH!

IN FORTY YEARS I'VE NEVER SEEN A LONGER HOMER!

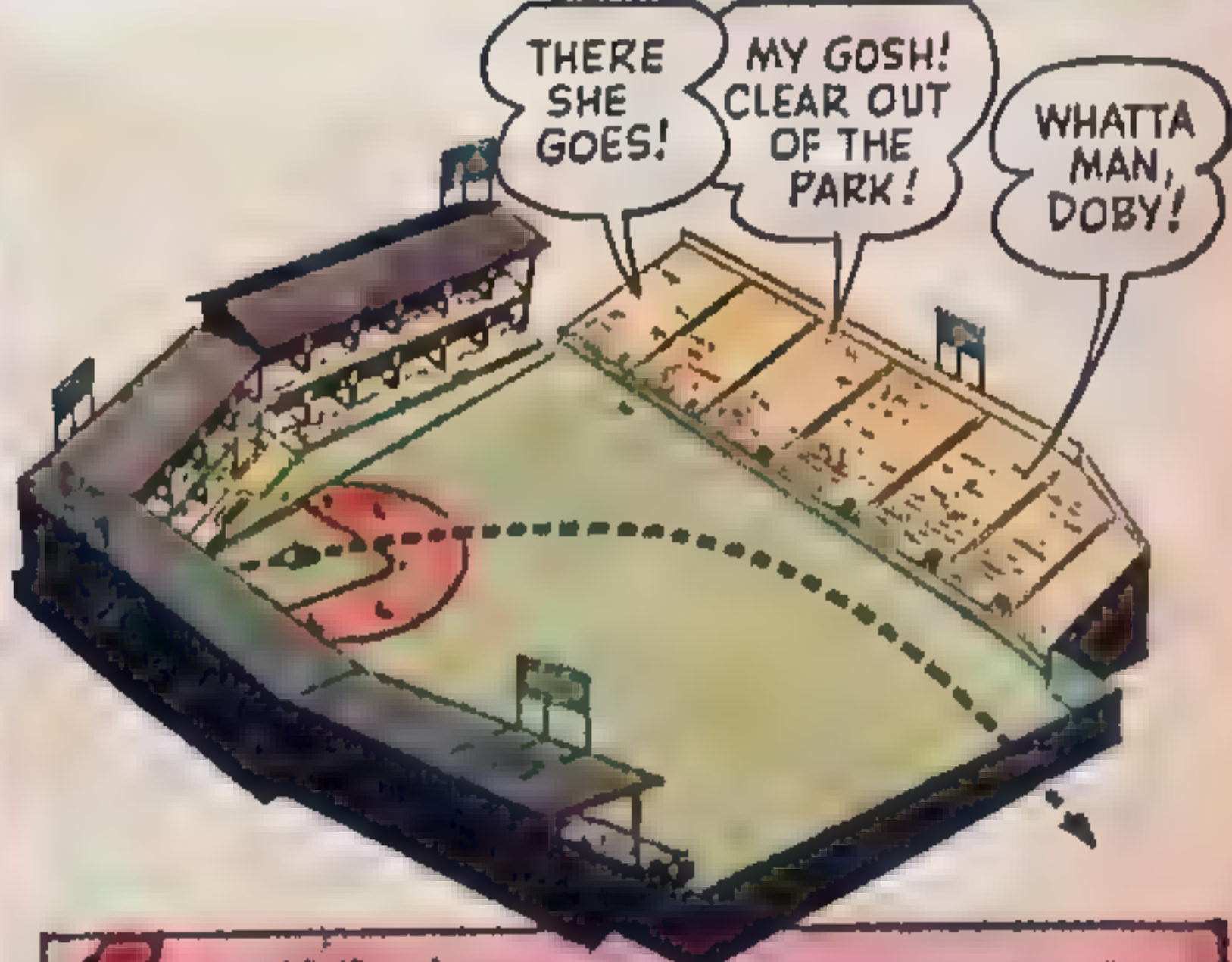
IT'S LONGER THAN LOU GEHRIG'S IN 1928!



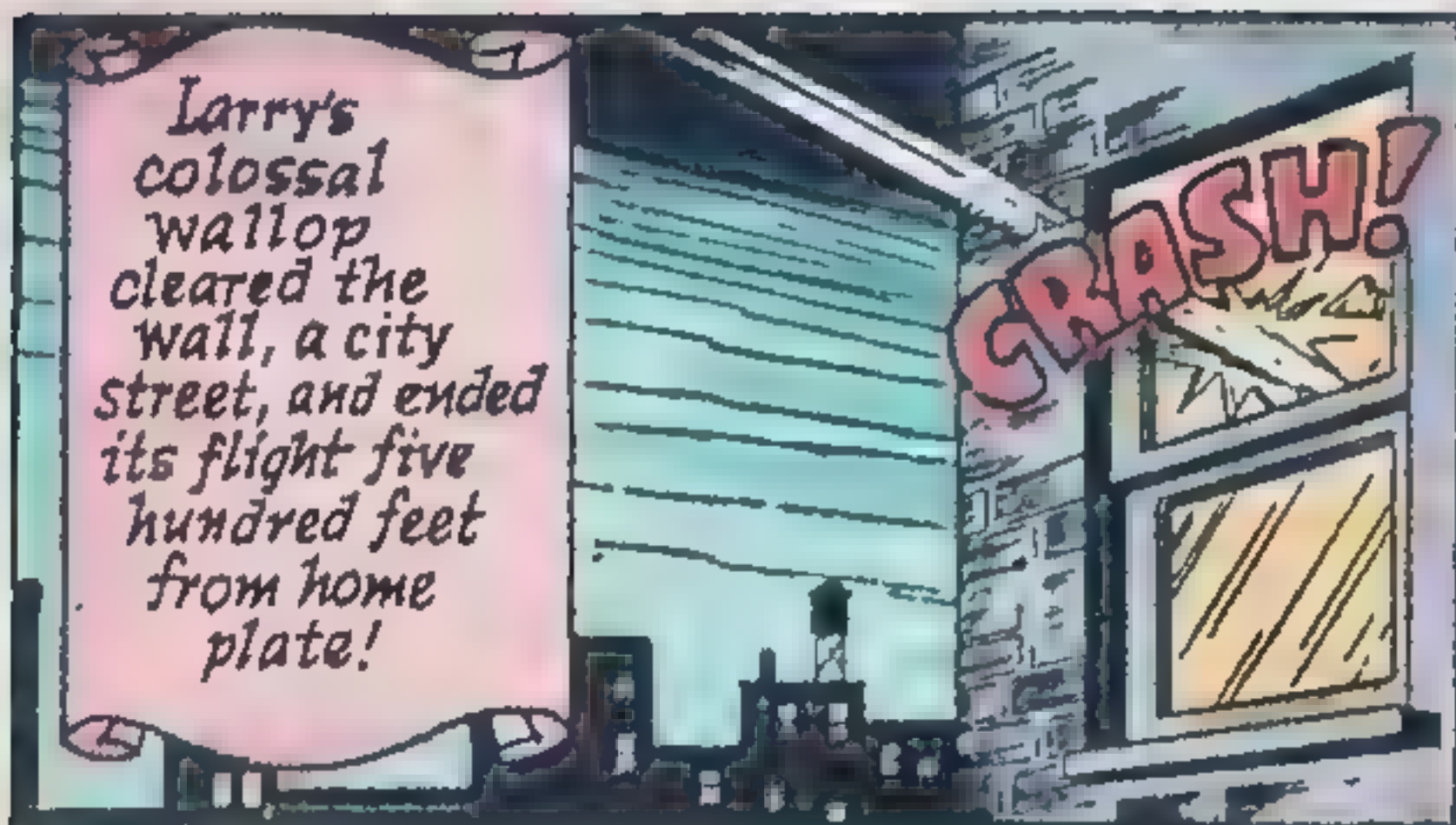
THERE SHE GOES!

MY GOSH! CLEAR OUT OF THE PARK!

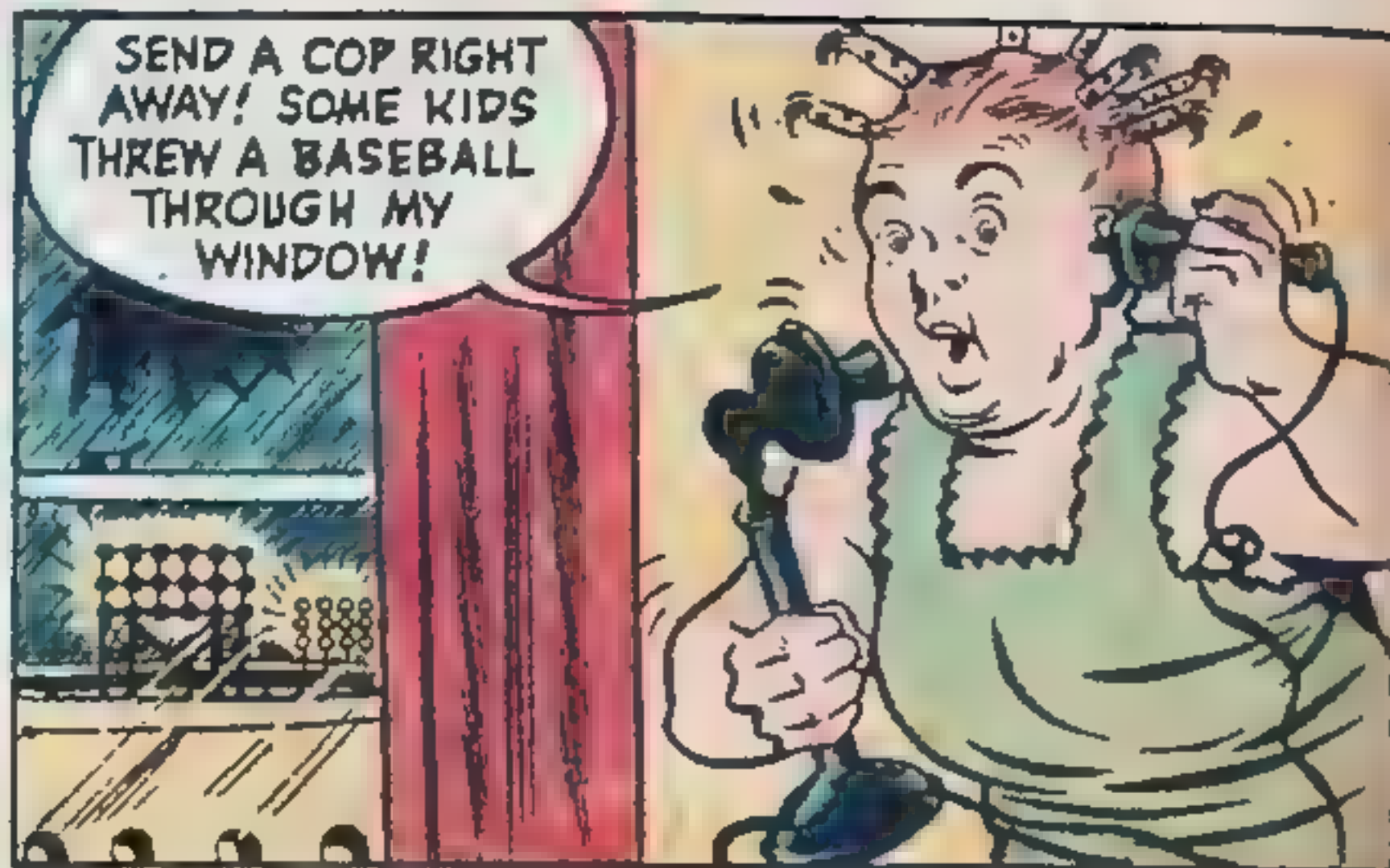
WHATTA MAN, DOBY!



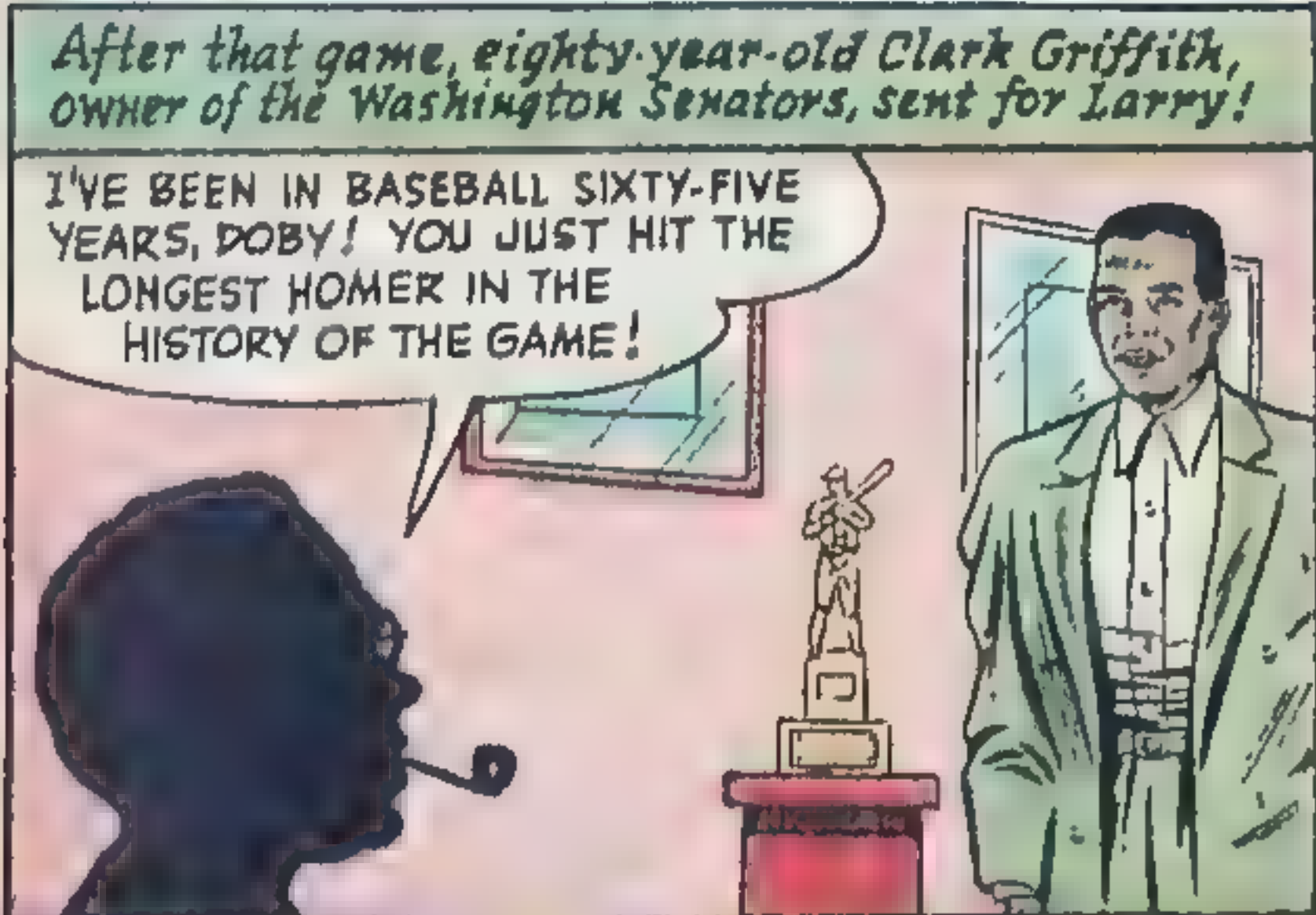
In Griffith Stadium, Washington, six days later, on May 25, Larry teed off again in a night game!



Larry's colossal wallop cleared the wall, a city street, and ended its flight five hundred feet from home plate!

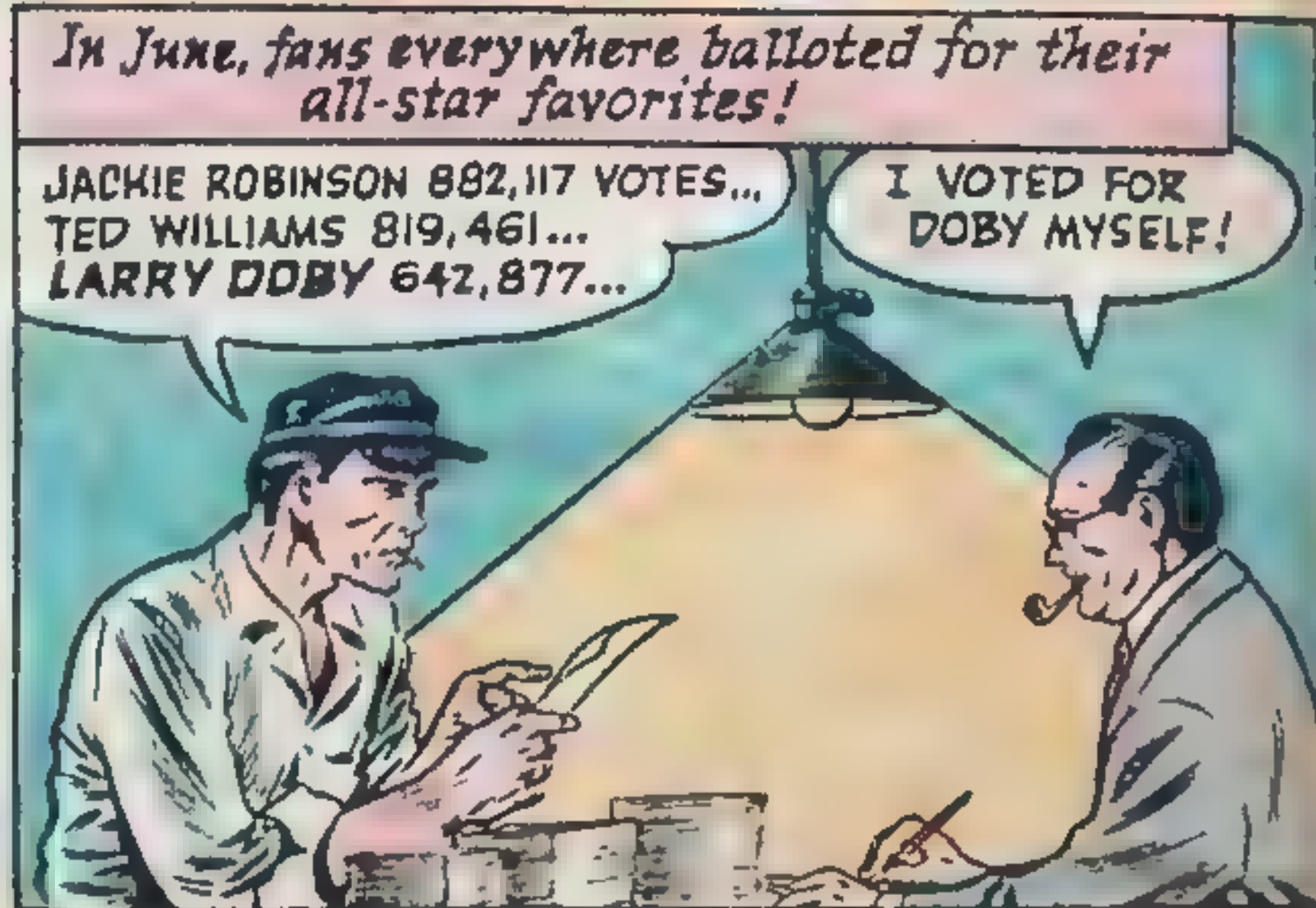


SEND A COP RIGHT AWAY! SOME KIDS THREW A BASEBALL THROUGH MY WINDOW!



After that game, eighty-year-old Clark Griffith, owner of the Washington Senators, sent for Larry!

I'VE BEEN IN BASEBALL SIXTY-FIVE YEARS, DOBY! YOU JUST HIT THE LONGEST HOMER IN THE HISTORY OF THE GAME!



In June, fans everywhere balloted for their all-star favorites!

JACKIE ROBINSON 882,117 VOTES...
TED WILLIAMS 819,461...
LARRY DOBY 642,877...

I VOTED FOR DOBY MYSELF!

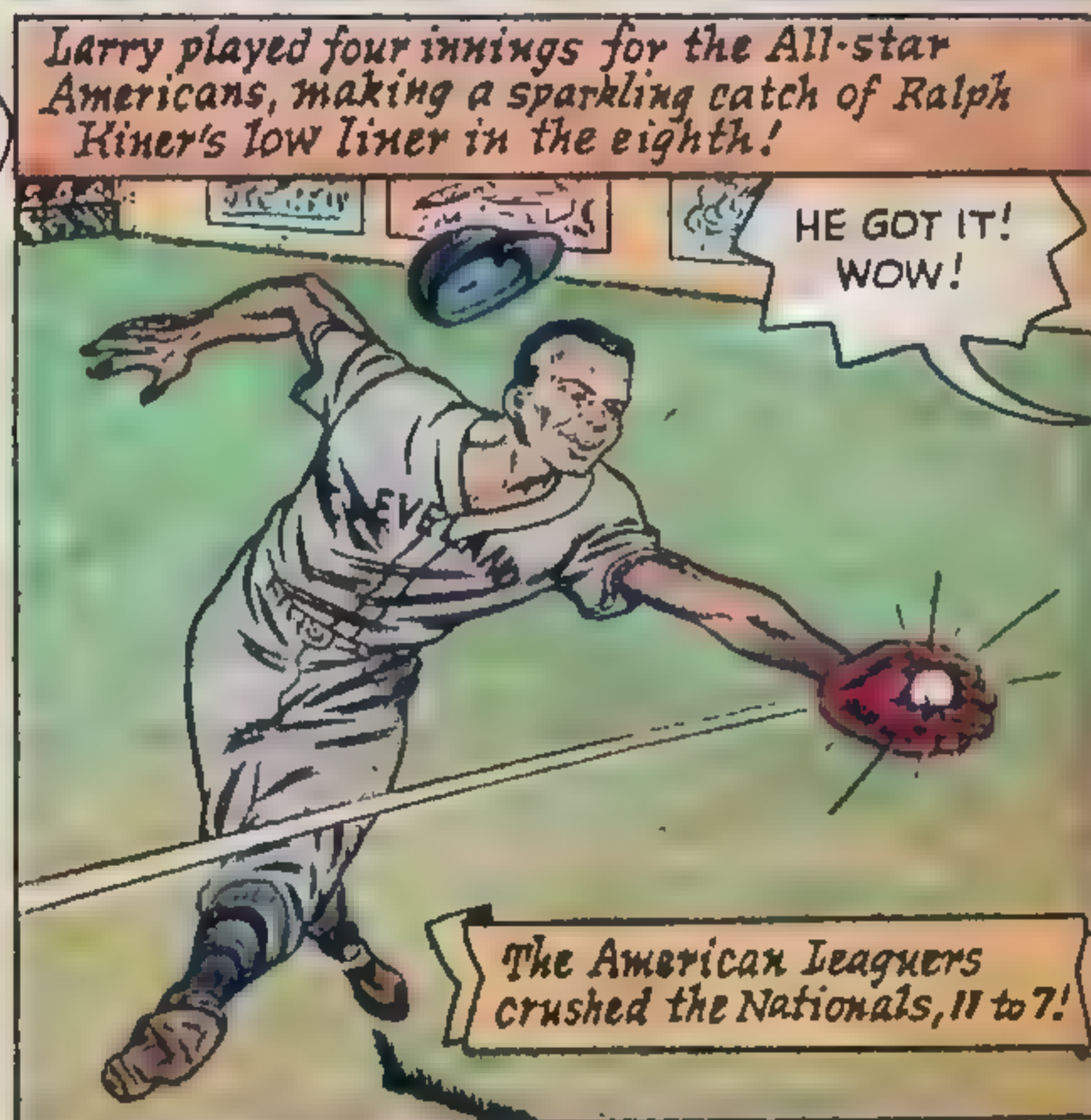
Larry Doby, the rookie who made good the hard way, had earned an all-star berth with Ted Williams and Joe DiMaggio! At Ebbets Field on July 13...



YOU'VE GOT AS MUCH POWER AS I HAVE, LARRY!

TRY TO RELAX LIKE I DO AND YOU'LL HIT OFTENER, LARRY!

WISH I HAD YOUR EXPERIENCE, BOYS!



Larry played four innings for the All-star Americans, making a sparkling catch of Ralph Kiner's low liner in the eighth!

HE GOT IT! WOW!

The American Leaguers crushed the Nationals, 11 to 7!

Meantime, the Indians had been unable to gain ground lost early in the pennant race! Lemon was pitching brilliantly, but Feller's lame back and Bearden's wildness were costly. On July 15, they trailed the Yankees by five and one-half games!

Before a tremendous Cleveland Stadium crowd on July 20, the Yankees led, 8 to 2. Suddenly, the Indians filled the bags! Larry, taking a lead off third, noticed that Yogi Berra was arguing with the umpire!

Eager to score a run, Larry thoughtlessly tried to steal home, but...

OUT!



THAT WAS A STRIKE!

PLAY BALL, BERRA!

After that losing game...

YOU BROKE UP OUR RALLY, LARRY! YOU MEANT WELL, BUT I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THAT TEAM PLAY COMES FIRST! I'M FINING YOU TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR STEALING WITHOUT ORDERS!

I WAS WRONG, LOU! I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON!

As Larry arrived in New York for the critical Yankee series on July 25...

HELEN'S IN THE HOSPITAL, LARRY!

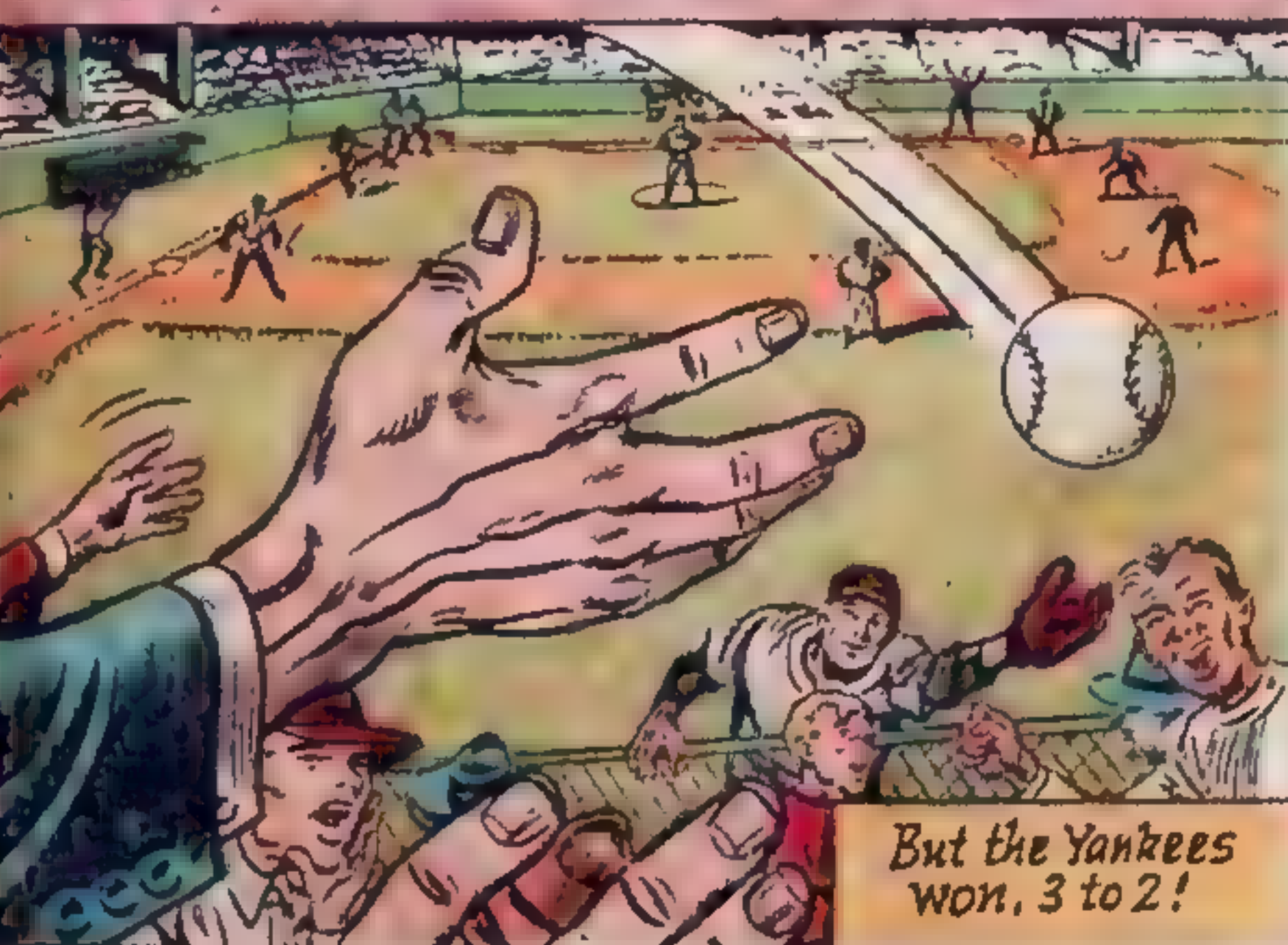
LET'S GRAB A CAB QUICK, MA!

Early the next morning, Larry met his new little daughter for the first time!

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, HELEN!

LET'S CALL HER CHRISTINA LYNN, LARRY!

Larry celebrated by passing out cigars to his teammates! Then, he crashed a homer off Vic Raschi!



By late August, the Indians sank to third place. But Larry battled fiercely, thundering a two-run homer, his seventeenth against the White Sox!

THAT'S HITTING, LARRY!

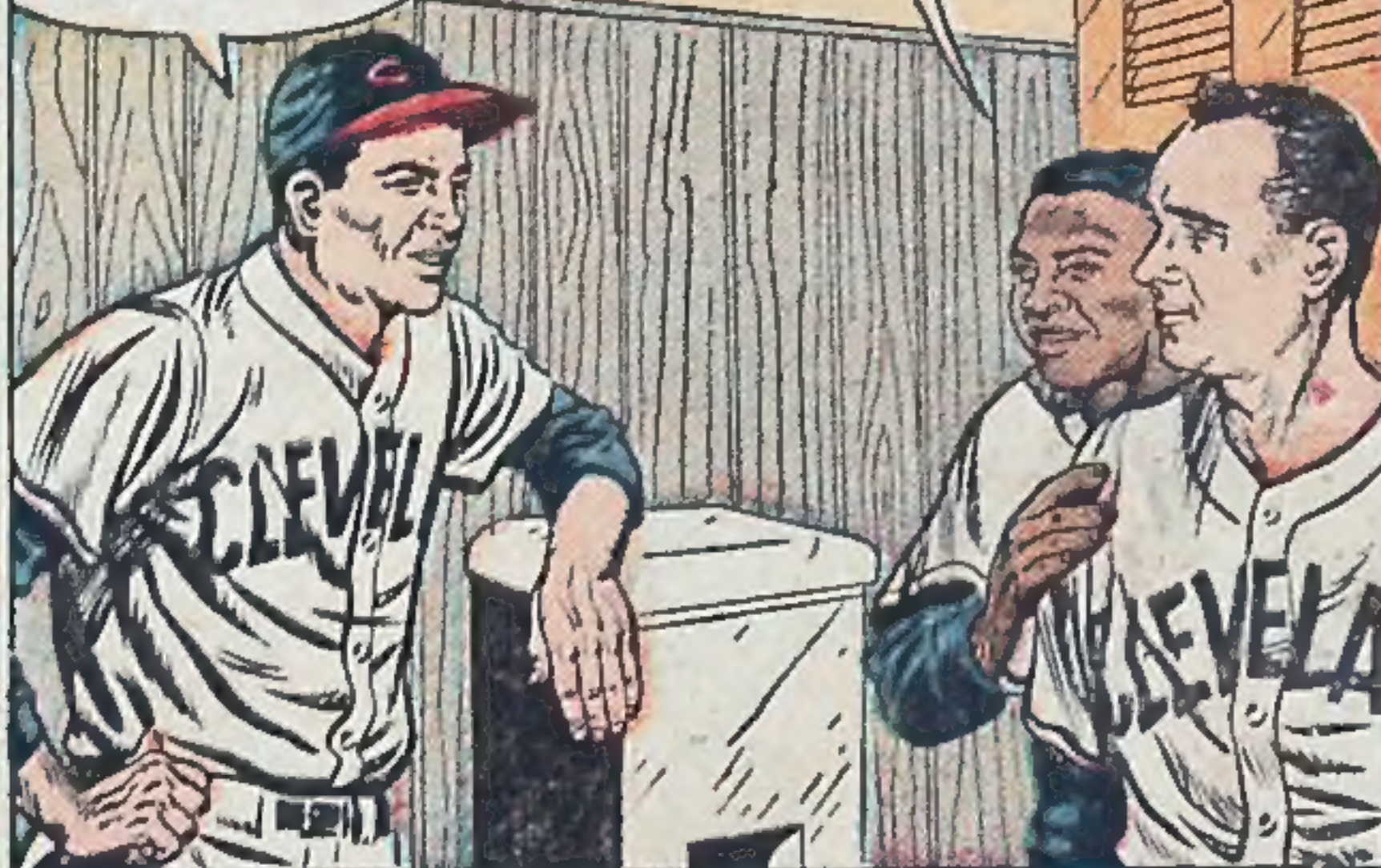


In mid-September, Indian president Bill Veeck staged a mock funeral at Municipal Stadium!



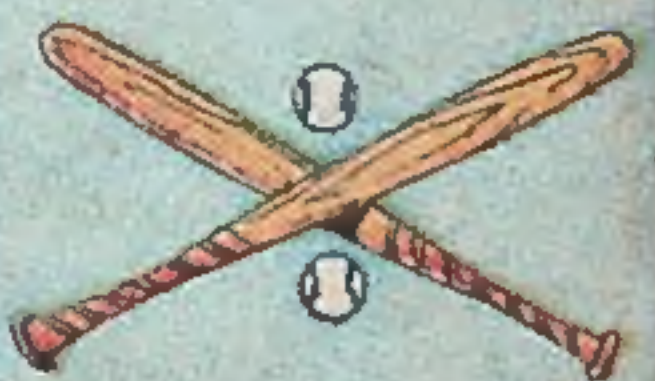
Later, in the clubhouse...

REMEMBER 1948? -- THE PENNANT, THE PLAYOFF, THE SERIES? WE CAN DO IT AGAIN IN 1950, BOYS!



Larry Doby's Record for 1949:

Batting Av.	.280
Hits	153
Doubles	25
Triples	3
Home Runs	24
Runs Batted In	85
Stolen Bases	10



A few days after Larry returned to his home in Paterson, N. J. ...

PATERSON HONORS YOU, LARRY DOBY, AS A CLEAN-LIVING ATHLETE AND RESPECTED CITIZEN OF WHOM WE ARE PROUD!

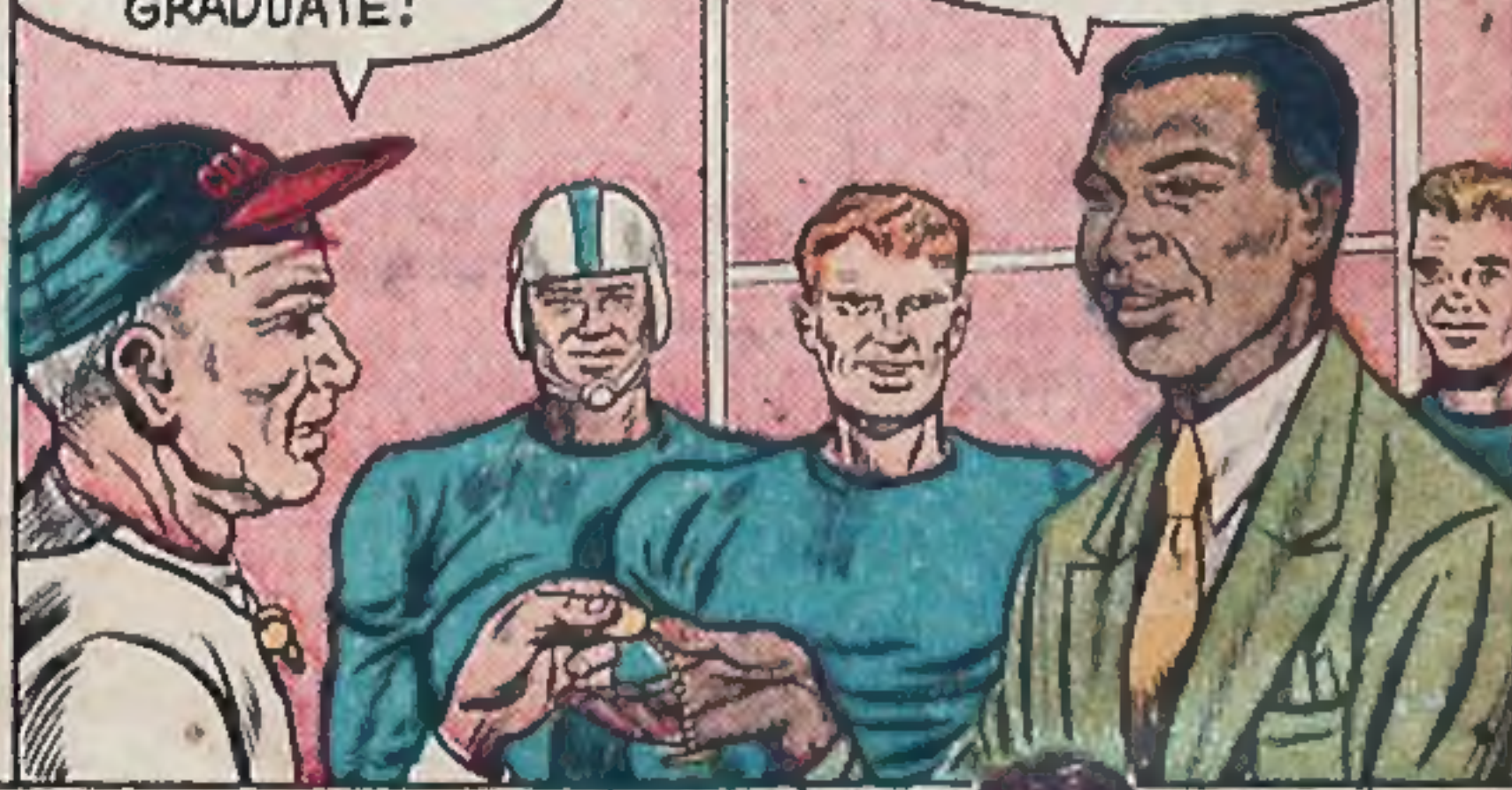


MR. MAYOR, I OWE MUCH TO PATERSON! I THANK YOU, SIR!

But Larry valued even more the tribute paid him by his alma mater, Eastside High!

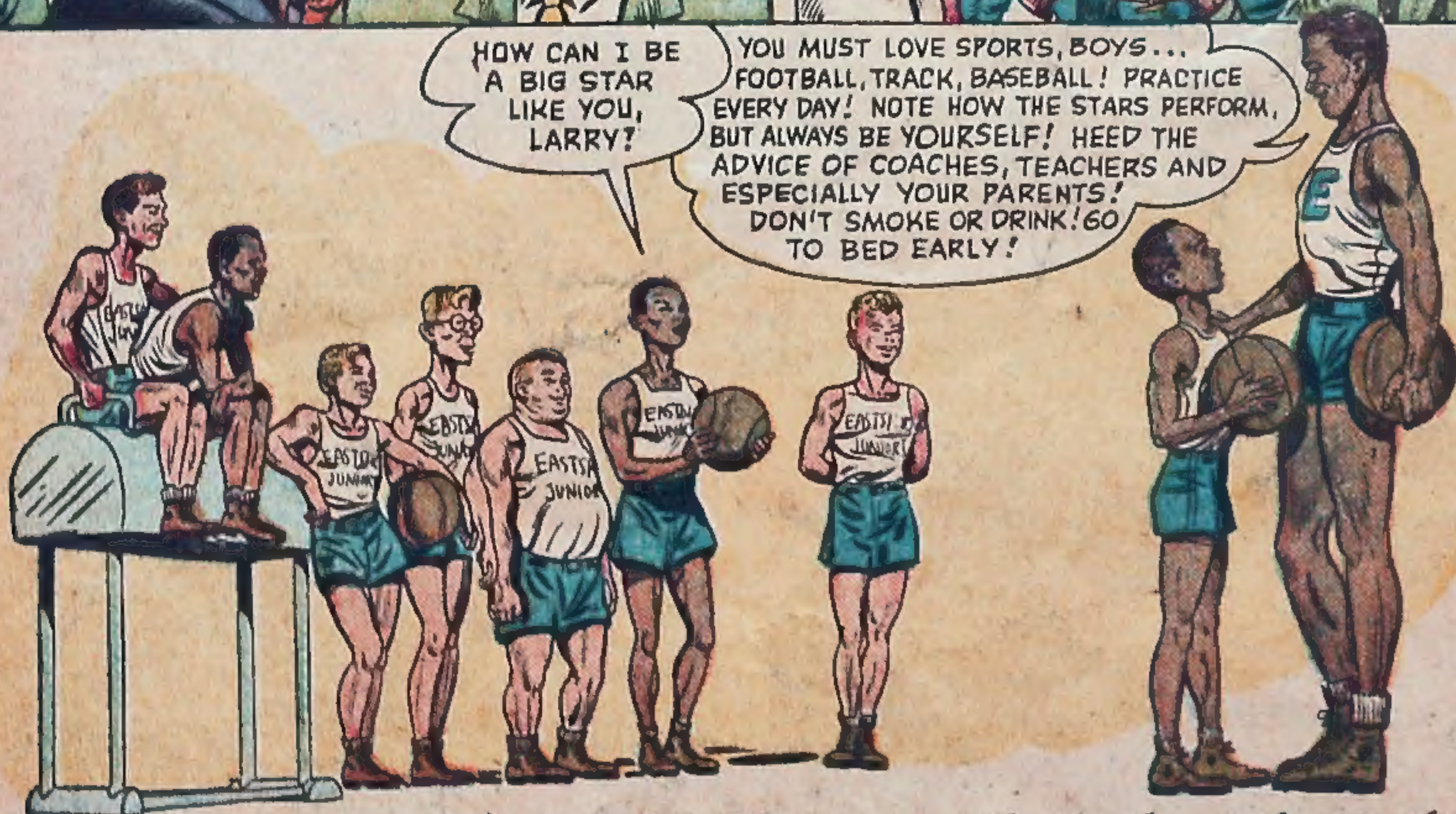
WE AT EASTSIDE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU, LARRY, AS OUR MOST FAMOUS GRADUATE!

I SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER MY DAYS AT EASTSIDE!



HOW CAN I BE A BIG STAR LIKE YOU, LARRY?

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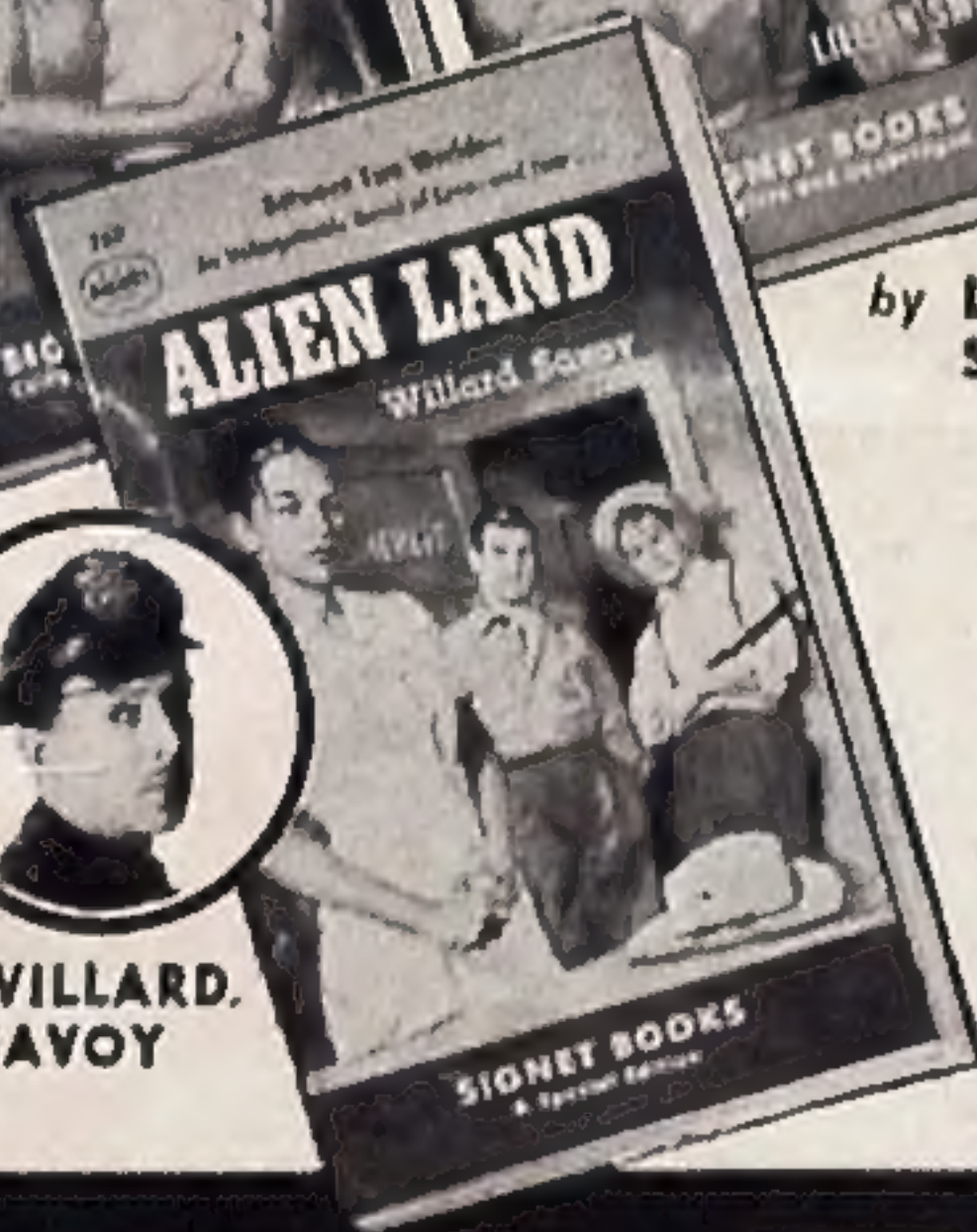
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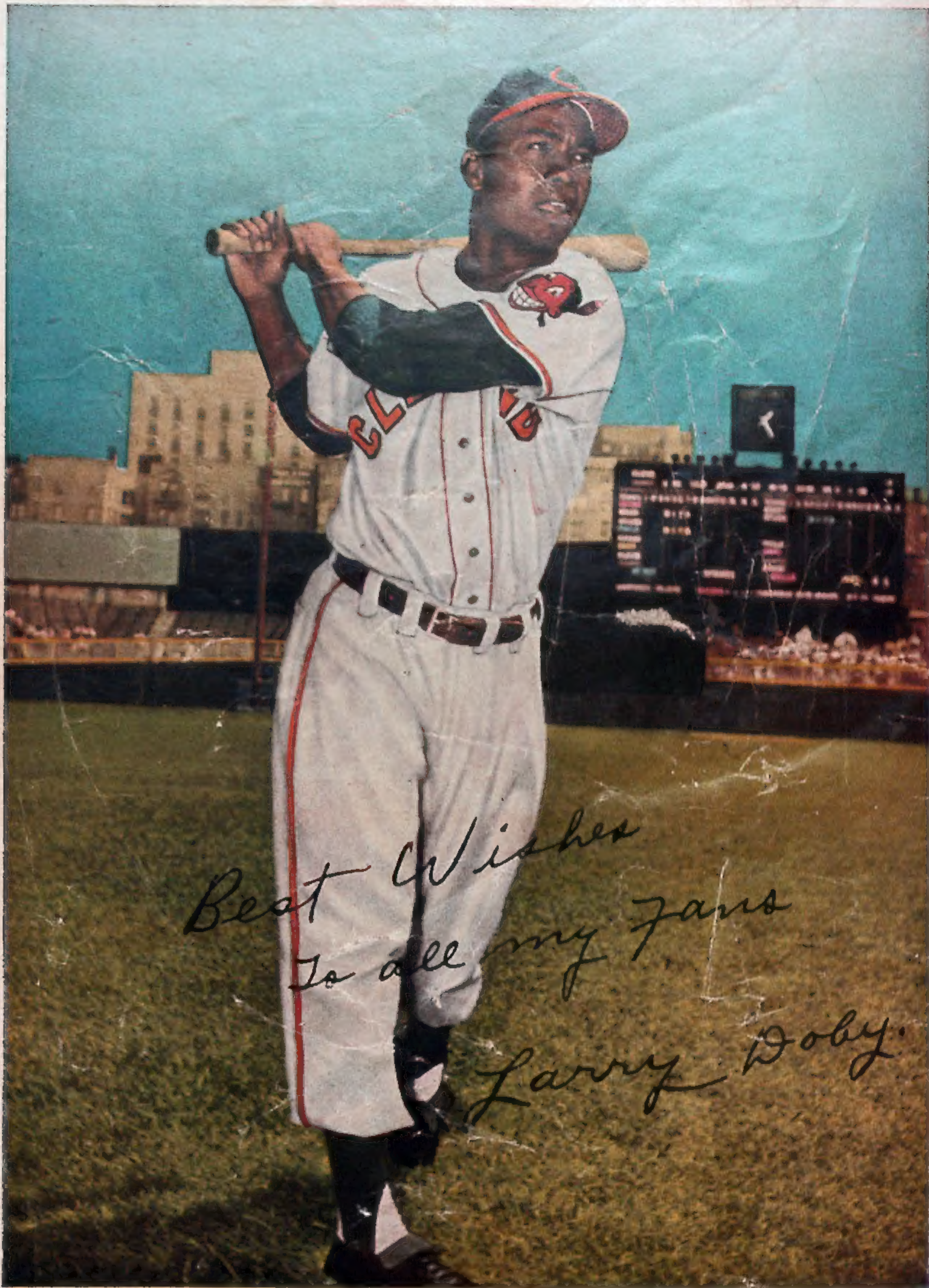
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BASEBALL HERO



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